

ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

VOLUME XI.—NUMBER 19.
WHOLE NUMBER 530.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1873.

SIX DOLLARS PER YEAR.
SINGLE COPIES, FIFTEEN CENTS.

Publication Office, 39 Park Row.
SUBSCRIPTION, SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

THE ARMY.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Balknap, Secretary of War.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

G. O. No. 108, WASHINGTON, Nov. 10, 1873.

The following instructions, in which are consolidated the existing regulations and orders relative to the allowance of fuel, are published for the information and guidance of the Army. The number of rooms and quantity of fuel for officers and men are as follows: [This table we omit.—ED. JOURNAL.]

Kindling wood may form a part of the regular issue of fuel in proportion equal to one-sixth of the whole allowance authorized, according to the scale of equivalents established by General Orders No. 13 of 1869, from this office, and the rate of commutation therefor at each military post or station shall be the market price of kindling wood at the time such commutation occurs. (General Orders No. 18, headquarters of the Army, Adjutant-General's Office, February 9, 1870.)

The foregoing allowances will take the place of Paragraph 1,068, Revised Army Regulations, 1863.

Merchandise hard wood is the standard; the cord is 128 cubic feet.

Paragraphs 1,068 and 1,069 of the Regulations are modified so as to provide that in the issue of fuel the following scale of equivalents shall be used, the standard being merchantable oak wood, delivered, viz.:

One cord of the standard oak wood equals—
One cord of merchantable oak;
One and one-fifth cord of yellow pine;
One and three-fourths cord of white pine, poplar, cottonwood, or other soft wood;
One thousand six hundred pounds of anthracite or bituminous coal. (General Orders No. 13, H. Q. A., A.-G. O., March 9, 1869.)

In the issue of coals of the Pacific slope the following scale of equivalents shall be used, the standard being merchantable oak wood, delivered, viz.:

One cord of the standard oak wood equals—
Two thousand five hundred pounds Rocky Mountain brown coal, Wahatch range;
Two thousand six hundred pounds Mount Diablo, California, and Coos Bay, Oregon, brown coal;
Two thousand four hundred pounds Seattle, Washington Territory, brown coal;
Two thousand two hundred pounds Bellingham Bay, Washington Territory, brown coal; and
One thousand eight hundred pounds Nanaimo, Vancouver's Island, British Columbia, brown coal. (General Orders No. 19, War Department, A.-G. O., April 24, 1872.)

A mess-room, and fuel for it, are allowed only when a majority of the officers of a post or regiment unite in a mess; never to less than three officers, nor to any who live in hotels or boarding-houses. Fuel for a mess-room shall not be used elsewhere or for any other purpose. (Par. 1,072, Regulations.)

Fuel issued to officers or troops is public property for their use; what they do not actually consume shall be returned to the quartermaster and taken up on his quarterly return; with this exception, however, that the fuel issued to troops and not actually used in quarters may be used in baking their bread. (Par. 1,073.) Particular attention of officers is called to the foregoing provision.

In September, October, November, December, January, February, March, and April the fuel is increased one-fourth at stations from the 30th to the 43d degree north latitude, and one-third at stations north of the 43d degree. (Substituted for Par. 1,074, General Orders No. 96, H. Q. A., A.-G. O., November 23, 1868.)

Fuel shall be issued only in the month when due. (Par. 1,075.)

At posts at great elevations above the sea level, or which may be otherwise exposed to extreme cold, the Secretary of War, upon recommendation of post, department, and division commanders, will authorize such increase of fuel as may be necessary for the health and comfort of the troops.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

G. O. No. 112, WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1873.

Publishes letter from the Treasury Department containing instructions to U. S. Disbursing Officers.

G. C.-M. Orders No. 49, Washington, November 1, 1873.—Promulgates the proceedings of a General Court-martial which convened at St. Louis Barracks, Mo., October 18, 1873, and of which Major P. T. Swaine, Second Infantry, is president, in the case of Recruits William Jackson, Lafayette M. Ludlow, George Cochran, and William Mickle, General Mounted Service, U. S. Army.

G. C.-M. Orders No. 50, Washington, November 1, 1873.—Promulgates the proceedings of a General Court-martial which convened at Willett's Point, New York Harbor, October 24, 1873, and of which Captain W. R. King, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, is president, in the case of Second Class Private Joseph Missett.

G. C.-M. Orders No. 51, Washington, November 1, 1873.—Approves the proceedings, findings, and sentence of a General Court-martial which convened at Sitka, Alaska Territory, September 19, 1873, and of which

Major Joseph Stewart, Fourth Artillery, is president, in the case of First Lieutenant Edward P. Newkirk, Fourth Artillery, found guilty of, I. "Violation of the 44th Article of War." II. "Disrespect to his commanding officer, in violation of the 6th Article of War." III. "Drunkenness on duty, in violation of the 45th Article of War." Additional Charge.—"Drunkenness on duty." Sentenced "To be cashiered." In consideration of the recommendation of members of the court, concurred in by the department commander, that executive clemency be exercised in this case, the sentence is mitigated to "Suspension from rank and command and a forfeiture of all pay except fifty dollars a month for the period of twelve months, during which time the accused will be confined to the limits of the post at which he was last on duty, or of such other post as the department commander may designate."

Desertion and Theft.—An indorsement upon a charge of theft preferred against a soldier who deserted the service, taking with him his arms and equipments, and subsequently surrendered himself under the provisions of General Orders No. 103, c. s., from the War Department, is as follows: "Deserters, surrendering themselves under General Orders No. 103, Adjutant-General's Office, 1873, will be pardoned the theft, in carrying away ordnance and ordnance stores at the time of their desertion, provided they make good the loss."

ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, for the week ending December 15.

[No Special Orders were issued from the Adjutant-General's Office, on Tuesday and Friday, the 9th and 12th insts.]

Wednesday, December 10.

The following transfers in the First Artillery are announced: First Lieutenant John M. K. Davis, from Company A to Company G; First Lieutenant H. W. Hubbell, Jr., from Company G to Company A. Lieutenant Hubbell will proceed to join his proper station.

Corporal Henry Steffenhagen and 1st Class Private Alois Barmetter, Ordnance Detachment, U. S. Army, are ordered to return to their station at Rock Island Arsenal without unnecessary delay.

By direction of the President, and under the provisions of section 4 of the act of Congress approved July 15, 1870, Colonel Robert S. Granger, Twenty-first Infantry, is, upon his own application, hereby retired from active service.

By direction of the President, and in accordance with section 20 of the act of July 23, 1866, First Lieutenant Frederick Robinson, Fifth Artillery, is detailed as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, and will report for duty accordingly.

On the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, First Lieutenant F. A. Hinman, Corps of Engineers, is relieved from duty under the immediate orders of Major D. C. Houston, Corps of Engineers, and will proceed to Mobile, Alabama, and report for duty to Captain A. N. Damrell, Corps of Engineers.

Leave of absence until June 6, 1874, is granted Surgeon James T. Ghiselin.

The resignation of Surgeon James T. Ghiselin has been accepted by the President, to take effect June 6, 1874.

The leave of absence granted Captain Malcolm McArthur, Seventeenth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 236, October 23, 1873, from headquarters Department of Dakota, is extended four months.

A General Court-martial is hereby appointed to meet at West Point, N. Y., on the 15th day of December, 1873, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the trial of Private Michael Lee, U. S. Military Academy Detachment of Cavalry, and such other prisoners as may be brought before it. Detail for the court: Captain A. M. Miller, Corps of Engineers; First Lieutenants J. P. Story, Jr., Fourth Artillery; E. H. Totten, First Artillery; S. M. Mills, Jr., Fifth Artillery; Second Lieutenants Frank Heath, Third Artillery; W. P. Davall, Fifth Artillery; D. A. Lyle, Second Artillery. Second Lieutenant Wallace Mott, Eighth Infantry, judge-advocate. The court is authorized to sit without regard to hours.

Discharged.—Private Alvah E. Weeks, Company D, Second Cavalry; Private Alexander Harrison, Company I, Twenty-fifth Infantry; Private James Edwards, Company K, Fourth Infantry; Private William H. Flanagan, Company A, Seventh Infantry; Private Dominick Duffy, General Service U. S. Army; Private William Wellitt, Company E, Twentieth Infantry; by direction of the President, Private Waldo W. Valentine, General Service U. S. Army; Sergeant William Ramsey, General Service U. S. Army.

By direction of the President, Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Elliott, First Cavalry (now on leave of absence), will report to the commanding general Military Division of the Atlantic for assignment to duty.

Thursday, December 11.

Sergeant Wm. Woodruff, Company H, Ninth Infantry, is ordered to return to his station at Omaha Barracks without unnecessary delay.

Discharged.—Private Stephen Langford, Company E, Twenty-first Infantry; Private James H. Coamberlin, General Service U. S. Army.

By direction of the President, and under provisions of section 4 of the act of Congress approved July 15, 1870, Colonel Abner Doubleday, Twenty-fourth Infantry, is, upon his own application, hereby retired from active service.

Under paragraph 1, General Orders No. 79, August 8, 1872, from this office, First Lieutenant Quintin Campbell, Fifth Infantry, in addition to his company duties, will hold himself in readiness at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to make payments to claimants near that station, under special instructions to be communicated by the Adjutant-General of the Army.

Paragraph 4 of S. O. No. 228, November 15, 1873, from this office, discharging Superintendent Bennett M. Reese, of the National Cemetery at Annapolis, Maryland, to take effect December 1, 1873, is amended to take effect January 1, 1874.

Saturday, December 13.

Discharged.—Private Alfred K. Barsa, Company E, Fifteenth Infantry; Hospital Steward Frederick B. De Land, U. S. Army; Private William H. Bower, Company D, Ninth Infantry.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, Assistant Surgeon A. B. Campbell is relieved from duty as examiner of recruits at Chicago, Illinois, and will report in person to the commanding general Department of Texas for assignment to duty.

The following enlisted men, who have surrendered themselves as deserters, being now on service in the Marine Corps or Navy, are discharged from the Army: Privates Robert Hanna (C), Thirtieth Infantry; John Fleming (M), Seventh Cavalry; Robert Davis (K), Private Cavalry; John A. Gigan (L), Second Cavalry; Robert Michael (A), Fifth Cavalry; Kate Smith (M), First Cavalry; John McLaughlin (F), Second Cavalry; Thomas Landy (D), Third Cavalry; Samuel Smith (E), First Infantry; John T. Collis (B), and Frederick E. Meyer (C), Battalion of Engineers, U. S. Army; John Hannery (K), Fifth Infantry.

The following having also surrendered, are restored to duty without penalty: Private John H. Foley (D), Third Cavalry, enlisted November 1, 1863, deserted May 9, 1874, and Arthur Thorp (K), Eighth Cavalry, enlisted November 23, 1866, deserted August 30, 1867; to K, Fourth Artillery. Private Charles Hoffmeister, band of the First Artillery, enlisted July 1, 1871; deserted May 18, 1872; enlisted October 22, 1872, in the band of the Fourth Artillery, under the name of Anton Stein; to the band of the Fourth Artillery. Private Charles S. Haskin (E), Twentieth Infantry, enlisted September 22, 1870, deserted March 12, 1871; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Private Charles Goddard (H), Fifth Cavalry, enlisted December 14, 1865; deserted July 1, 1867; enlisted November 12, 1870, in (I) First Cavalry, under the name of Charles Saintonge; transferred to (I), First Cavalry. Private Michael Lynch (A), 3d Battalion Fifteenth Infantry, enlisted September 16, 1863, deserted July 7, 1866; transferred to (B) Sixteenth Infantry. Private John Howery (G), Twenty-first Infantry, enlisted January 13, 1872; deserted April, 1872; enlisted October 8, 1872, in Light Battery A, Second Artillery, under the name of Charles Scott; transferred to Battery A, Second Artillery. Private William W. Bair (B), Third Cavalry, enlisted April 22, 1868; deserted June 14, 1869; enlisted December 3, 1872, in Light Battery K, First Artillery, under the name of Charles Callahan; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Musician James F. Daniel, General Service U. S. Army, enlisted October 29, 1865, deserted January 26, 1870. Private Hugh McCafferty (D), Fourteenth Infantry, enlisted July 29, 1870, deserted October 16, 1872; transferred to the Fifth Artillery, the commanding officer of which regiment will assign him to a company. Privates Timothy Burns (F), Eighth Infantry, enlisted September 18, 1869, deserted March 25, 1871, in (C) First Infantry. Private William H. Clancy (B), First Artillery, enlisted June 5, 1873, deserted July 8, 1872; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Second Class Private Walter H. Clapp, Ordnance Detachment, U. S. Army, enlisted October 28, 1869, deserted May 24, 1873, from Watertown Arsenal, Mass.; to the Ordnance Detachment at Detroit Arsenal, Mich. Private Robert Harvey (D), Sixteenth Infantry, enlisted September 30, 1864; deserted February 2, 1867; enlisted in (D) First Infantry, January 9, 1873, under the name of Ralph C. Hart; to (D) First Infantry. Private George Grossman (B), Second Cavalry, enlisted August 11, 1870, deserted July 28, 1872; transferred to (L), Third Cavalry. Private William H. Clancy (B), First Artillery, enlisted October 10, 1871, deserted June 14, 1873; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Private David L. Palmer (I), Sixth Infantry, enlisted January 18, 1870, deserted May 23, 1871; enlisted October 19, 1871, in (D) First Infantry, under the name of Louis D. Palmer; and First Class Private John Kelly, Ordnance Detachment, U. S. Army, enlisted December 14, 1871; deserted from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., July 11, 1872; enlisted August 31, 1872, in (D) First Infantry, under the name of James Murray; to (D) First Infantry. Musician William Howard (B), Fourth Infantry, enlisted July 28, 1870; deserted October 28, 1871; enlisted November 2, 1871, in (L) Fifth Cavalry, under the name of Willam Gilmore; transferred to the Twelfth Infantry, the commanding officer of which regiment will assign him to a company. Private George Spitz (D), First Artillery, enlisted January 20, 1870, deserted July 29, 1871; will report to the commanding officer of his company. Private James Tracy (B), Second Cavalry, enlisted December 9, 1871, deserted May 20, 1872; transferred to the Second Artillery, the commanding officer of which regiment will assign him to a company. Private Philip O'Sullivan (D), Twenty-ninth Infantry (3d Battalion, Eleventh Infantry), enlisted August 1, 1863, deserted July 19, 1867; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Private Patrick O'Gorman (F), Eighth Cavalry, enlisted November 11, 1866; deserted January 26, 1869; enlisted September 12, 1872, in (M) First Cavalry, under the name of Richard Fennelly; transferred to (M) First Cavalry. Private Anton V. Swaty (B), Eleventh Infantry, enlisted August 25, 1870; deserted August 20, 1871; enlisted July 12, 1873, in (K) Second Infantry, under the name of Victor Hurdall; transferred to (K) Second Infantry. Privates Joseph Gibson (I), Ninth Infantry, enlisted February 26, 1871, deserted July 21, 1871; and Richard Phillips (H), First Infantry, enlisted January 1, 1870, deserted May 23, 1870; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Private James T. Callen (K), Fourth Infantry, enlisted October 17, 1870; deserted May 31, 1871; enlisted October 19, 1871, in (G) Second Infantry, under the name of James T. Wilson; deserted June 27, 1872; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Private Francis P. Ryan (B), 3d Battalion, Seventeenth Infantry, enlisted December 26, 1866, deserted April 8, 1868; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Private Thomas Johnson (E), Fourth Infantry, enlisted August 7, 1869, deserted June 21, 1871, and James Hennessey (L), Fifth Cavalry, enlisted October 12, 1868, deserted July 24, 1869; to (H) First Infantry. Private Charles S. Thompson (C), Second Cavalry, enlisted May 10, 1869, deserted July 18, 1871; transferred to (K) Twenty-first Infantry. Private Benton Wallace (F), Fifteenth Infantry, enlisted November 28, 1866, deserted February 18, 1868; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army. Private Frederick W. Watson (C), Twelfth Infantry, enlisted February 11, 1864; deserted May 13, 1865; enlisted January 18, 1871, in (D) Seventh Cavalry, under the name of Charles Aubrey; transferred to the General Service U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY.

W. T. Sherman, General of the Army of the United States.

Colonel W. D. Whipple, Assistant Adjutant-General.

1. The leave of absence for sixty days granted First Lieutenant M. C. Grier, Fourth Artillery, in S. O. No. 169, headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, dated September 27, 1873, is hereby extended sixty days. (S. O. No. 64, December 12.)

2. Private John O'Brien, Company I, First Artillery,

now at Fort Independence, Mass., is hereby transferred to Company E, Fifth Artillery. (Ibid.)

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieutenant-Gen. P. H. Sheridan: Hdqrs Chicago, Ill.

Major Robert A. Kinzie, paymaster in the U. S. Army and attached to the staff of General Sheridan, died suddenly of heart disease at Chicago, on the afternoon of December 13. His commission bears date May 2, 1861, and he was made lieutenant-colonel by brevet March 13, 1865. He was born in the State of Illinois, but was appointed to the service from Kansas.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.

Brigadier-General Alfred H. Terry: Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.

Fifth Infantry.—Second Lieutenant E. E. Hargous December 4 was directed to conduct a detachment of enlisted men, Seventh Cavalry, to Fort Snelling, Minn.

Twentieth Infantry.—Second Lieutenant W. H. Low, Jr., December 5 was ordered to Fargo, D. T., thence to Fort Seward, reporting for temporary duty, until further orders. In case Lieutenant Low is not able to procure at Fargo the proper transportation for his journey thence to Fort Seward direct, he was authorized to proceed via Fort Abercrombie.

Department Judge-Advocate.—Major T. F. Barr, judge-advocate, U. S. Army, November 23 was announced as judge-advocate of the department.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

Brigadier-General John Pope: Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.

Fort Larned.—A. A. Surgeon A. N. Ellis, U. S. Army, December 10 was ordered to Fort Larned, Kansas, for duty.

Fort Dodge.—A. A. Surgeon M. O'Brien, U. S. Army, December 10 was ordered to Fort Dodge, Kansas, for assignment to duty.

Fifteenth Infantry.—Company F December 10 was directed to march from Fort Selden, N. M., to Fort Craig, N. M., and there take post, relieving Company H, which, on being relieved, was ordered to Fort Selden. Upon the arrival of Company F at Fort Craig, Captain E. W. Whittemore is ordered to relieve Captain J. H. Stewart, in command of the post, who, upon being thus relieved, is ordered with his company to Fort Selden.

The St. Louis Bridge.—The St. Louis bridge controversy closes, so far as the Government engineers are concerned, with a letter from Colonel Simpson, published in the *St. Louis Republican*, of December 6, in which he says: "The board, without fear, favor or affection, did the best they knew how to save the bridge and at the same time protect the interests of navigation. How far they have accomplished this it is for higher authority to decide; and with this I end the discussion on my part so far as the public journals are concerned." This is a reply to a letter and affidavit of Wm. Taussig, one of the directors of the bridge company, making a protest against the action of the board, the gist of which is, "that the bridge company would have been prepared, if sufficient and reasonable time had been granted them, to disprove by a large number of experienced and expert persons, by statistics, by measurements, and by adducing of facts, all of the grounds of complaint which had been heard and considered by said board, but by the arbitrary and summary action of said board they were prevented therefrom." Major Warren is the subject of a special complaint as follows: "In making this request (for an opportunity to put in rebutting testimony) affiant stated that the bridge company 'asked only for as many hours as the complainants had had weeks within which to prepare their testimony,' as was evidenced by the complainants' carefully prepared plans, schedules, measurements and otherwise organized opposition to the bridge. This request was positively denied, and when this affiant stated that a great many old and experienced steamboatmen were ready to disprove the statements of those complaining against the bridge, one of the members of said board of engineers, Major Warren, said: 'If a thousand steamboatmen should come and say that this bridge was no obstruction it would not change my opinion.'"

Fort Riley.—Captain A. S. Kimball, A. Q. M., U. S. Army, now post quartermaster at Fort Riley, Kansas, December 9 was relieved from duty in this department, by First Lieutenant F. B. Jones, R. Q. M., Third Infantry.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord: Headquarters, Omaha, Nebraska.

Third Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply for an extension of sixty days, December 11 was granted Captain Charles Meinhold.

Fourth Infantry.—Second Lieutenant Butler D. Price (Company G) has been promoted to be first lieutenant (Company E), Fourth Infantry, vice Veitenheimer deceased, ordered to be dropped from the roll of the company to which he lately belonged and to be taken up on the roll of the company to which he has been promoted, and proceed to Fort D. A. Russell to join the company. Second Lieutenant George O. Webster, adjutant, Fourth Infantry, has also been promoted to be first lieutenant, and ordered to be taken up with his present rank on the rolls of his regiment.

Fort Bridger, W. T.—From this post a correspondent writes, December 10, 1873: "Although so far out of the reach of civilization, we still survive. This post, garrisoned by three companies of the Fourth Infantry, Headquarters, staff, and band is situated about fifteen miles from the U. P. R. R. It is very monotonous here during the winter months; severe weather commences about the first of December and continues until the first of May. An association has been formed, entitled the 'Fort Bridger Terpsichorean Association,' consisting of twenty-five members from the three companies and band. The first hop under its auspices was given on the evening of December 9, 1873, which was well attended,

about seventy couples being present. The hall in which it was held belongs to Judge Carter, who has fitted it up for the express purpose of affording the officers and enlisted men of the post a suitable place for enjoyment. It is beautifully decorated with flags, evergreens, etc. The music was furnished by the regimental string band. WALTZER.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

Brigadier-General C. C. Augur: Headquarters, San Antonio, Texas.

Eleventh Infantry.—A General Court-martial convened at Fort McKavett, Texas, December 8, for the trial of Second Lieutenant Calvin T. Speer. Lieutenant-Colonel Wesley Merritt, Ninth Cavalry, and the following officers of the Tenth Infantry were detailed for the court: Colonel Henry B. Clitz; Captains Nathaniel Prime, Robert P. Wilson, Francis E. Lacey; First Lieutenants Charles E. Jewett, Gregory Barrett, Jr., R. Q. M. First Lieutenant Edwin O. Gibson, adjutant, judge-advocate.

Fort Sill, I. T.—In the *JOURNAL* of November 8 we copied an article from the *Nation* for the sake of the description it gave this post. It contained also, unfortunately for us, a comparison between the "Buffalo soldiers" and the white soldiers, which seems to have unnecessarily disturbed some of the latter. We do not publish their letters, for we think we can find better use for our space. From one of them we however take the following request in regard to another matter: Have we not, asks our correspondent, "Have we not paid a sufficient sum to the Soldiers' Home by way of our stoppages of our monthly pay for conduct prejudicial to General Orders military discipline, while under the influence of liquor? I think we have. Now, let there be a meeting called at every post and organize a temperance society, elect officers and work with a determination in the cause, and we shall reap a rich reward. We organized such a society at this post on the 6th inst., which we named the Columbia Lodge I. O. of G. T. If there be other organizations of like nature in the Army we would be pleased to open a correspondence for our mutual benefit, all letters addressed to Private John McCann, Company E, Fourth Cavalry, will be cheerfully answered."

The agent at this post, Mr. Haworth, was to turn the Comanches over to the military on the 12th of December, if by that time they had not complied with the demands of the Government to deliver up five of their number, and settle near the agency. This will bring affairs to a crisis.

Fort Brown.—Major J. W. Nichols, paymaster, U. S. Army, December 4 was ordered to New Orleans, La., to obtain money for December payment, and return with it to Fort Brown, Texas.

Ninth Cavalry.—Second Lieutenant C. W. Merritt December 4 was ordered to report to commanding officer Fort Concho for temporary duty—instead of rejoining his company at Fort Davis, Texas.

Fort Clark.—A General Court-martial convened at Fort Clark, Texas, December 10. Detail for the court: Surgeon Charles C. Gray, Medical Department; Captains Clarence Mauck, Fourth Cavalry; William L. Kellogg, John N. Craig, Tenth Infantry; Joseph Rendlebrook, Fourth Cavalry; First Lieutenants Joel T. Kirkman, Tenth Infantry; Deminick Lynch, Jr., Fourth Cavalry. First Lieutenant Charles L. Hudson, Fourth Cavalry, judge-advocate.

Reservation Indians.—In August last Lieutenant-Colonel Davidson, of the Tenth Cavalry, B. M.-G. U. S. Army, was sent on an expedition against the Indians in which his command marched four hundred miles in twenty-seven days, entirely around the Kiowa and Comanche reservation, south of Red river, and west beyond the 100th meridian suffering greatly, meanwhile, 200 miles of the march being under a burning August sun, without good grass, and the water unfit for men and beast. In his report General Davidson said, "No camps of Kiowas or Comanches were found off their reservation, but abundant evidence to show they are constantly raiding into Texas, all of which will be shown in my detailed report. I came into the department ignorant of the country south and west of Sill, and this expedition has taught me more of it than all the faulty sketches and personal information hitherto given me. I conclude, these Indians confine themselves to no particular belt of operations, but shoot straight from wherever their camps happen to be into Texas, that the reservation is a 'city of refuge' for these marauders, that hunting for an enemy who has the eye of a hawk and the stealth of a wolf over the arid plains and salty sandy beds of streams I have traversed, is like hunting for needles in haystacks, and that an effective method of meeting this condition of affairs, while the Government is feeding and clothing reservation Indians, is to dismount them, and make them answer a daily roll-call."

Fort Quitman.—A General Court-martial convened at Fort Quitman, Texas, December 16. The following officers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry were detailed for the court: Captains D. D. Van Valzah, David Schooley, Frank M. Cox; First Lieutenant Frederic A. Kendall; Second Lieutenant Harris A. Wheeler. First Lieutenant Washington I. Sanborn, judge-advocate.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDowell: Hdqrs, Louisville, Ky.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDowell: Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky.

Sixteenth Infantry.—Leave of absence for thirty days December 11 was granted Second Lieutenant William C. McFarland.

First Artillery.—Leave of absence for thirty days December 11 was granted First Lieutenant Allyn Capron.

Commissary Department.—Captain William H. Nash C. S., December 9 was directed to report to Colonel Charles L. Kilburn, A. C.-G. S., U. S. Army, for special duty in Louisville, Ky.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Colonel W. H. Emory: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.

Medical Department.—A leave of absence for thirty days, to take effect before he proceeds to Greenwood, La., December 12 was granted A. A. Surgeon B. J. Byrne, U. S. Army.

Sixth Infantry.—Captain W. W. Sanders, Sixth Infantry, A. D. C., was directed December 12 to accompany the department commander on a visit of inspection to Forts Jackson and St. Philip, La.

Nineteenth Infantry.—The *New Orleans Herald*, of December 9, says: "This fine regiment is under marching orders for Key West, and detachments of it are expected to leave to-day. Several of the companies are stationed in the interior of the State, at Baton Rouge, Colfax, St. Martin, and other points. It is supposed that the Nineteenth will garrison the fortifications at Key West."

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Hdqrs, New York.

Watertown.—Over 100 men are now employed in the arsenal at Watertown, Mass., being double the usual number.

Fifth Infantry.—Captain William G. Mitchell, Fifth Infantry, aide-de camp, A. I.-G. of the division, December 12 was ordered to inspect the posts and garrisons of Fort Ontario, Fort Porter, and Fort Niagara, New York.

First Cavalry.—Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Elliott December 12 was assigned to special duty at department headquarters.

Fort Niagara.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Niagara, New York, December 17. Detail for the court: Captain Edmond C. Bainbridge, Fifth Artillery; Assistant Surgeon John H. Bartholf, Medical Department; First Lieutenants James O'Hara, Third Artillery; Frederick M. Lynde, First Infantry; Henry C. Dames, Third Artillery; Second Lieutenants Douglas M. Scott, First Infantry; Benjamin H. Randolph, Third Artillery. First Lieutenant William E. Dougherty, First Infantry, judge-advocate.

Third Artillery.—Second Lieutenant Benjamin H. Randolph December 10 was ordered to proceed to Fort Niagara, Youngstown, N. Y., for temporary duty at that post.

Fort Monroe.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Monroe, Va., December 15. Detail for the court: Major Gustavus A. De Russy, Third Artillery; Captain Samuel S. Elder, First Artillery; First Lieutenants Joseph Keefe, Selden A. Day, Fifth Artillery; Charles F. Humphrey, Fourth Artillery; Second Lieutenants Charles W. Whipple, Third Artillery; Edward S. Chapin, Fourth Artillery. Second Lieutenant Clermont L. Best, Jr., First Artillery, judge-advocate.

Fort Hamilton.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H., December 12, for the trial of such persons as may be brought before it by authority from department headquarters. The following officers of the Third Artillery were detailed for the court: Captains Alexander Piper, Abram C. Wildrick; First Lieutenants John L. Tiernon, Frank W. Hess, John B. Eaton; Second Lieutenants Ira MacNutt, William E. Birkhimer. First Lieutenant James Chester, judge-advocate.

Seventeenth Infantry.—First Lieutenant James H. Rice, having reported (in accordance with instructions from Adjutant-General's Office, dated November 24, 1873), for examination by the board to retire disabled officers, convened in New York, and his examination by said board having been completed, December 9 he was ordered to his home at Allston, Mass., there to await further orders.

Officers Registered.—The following officers were registered at the headquarters Military Division of the Atlantic, for the week ending December 16: Majors H. A. Hambricht, Nineteenth Infantry; C. De Witt, A. S., U. S. Army; First Lieutenant C. S. Heintzelman, Third Artillery; Captain R. A. Torrey, Thirteenth Infantry; Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. English, Second Infantry; Captain Wm. M. Waterbury, Thirteenth Infantry; Colonel J. H. Simpson, Corps of Engineers; Captain Owen Hale, Seventh Cavalry; Major C. G. Sawtelle, A. Q. M., U. S. Army; Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. French, First Lieutenant J. H. Lord, Second Artillery; Second Lieutenant W. W. Wood, Twentieth Infantry.

Madison Barracks.—The leave of absence for seven days granted Surgeon Lewis A. Edwards, Medical Department, in S. O. No. 94, c. s., from the post of Madison Barracks, New York, December 13 was extended ten days.

Judge-Advocate's Department.—Major Guido N. Lieber, Judge-Advocate's Department, December 15 was ordered to Albany, New York, and thence to Columbus, O., to make an inspection of the penitentiaries at those places used as military prisons.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

Major-Gen J. M. Schofield: Hdqrs San Francisco, Cal.

Officers Registered.—The following officers registered their names at the headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, during the week ending Tuesday, December 9: Captains T. McGregor, First Cavalry; A. H. Nickerson, Twenty-third Infantry; Wm. E. Dove, Twelfth Infantry; A. A. Surgeon H. W. Boone, U. S. Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles H. Tompkins.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal., November 4, 1873, and of which Colonel Horace Brooks, Fourth Artillery, is president, and Major Herbert P. Curtis, judge-advocate, U. S. Army, judge-advocate, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles H. Tompkins, D. Q. M.-G. U. S. Army, was arraigned and tried, on the charges

1st.—Violation of the act of March 3, 1863 (chapter 67, section 1), "to prevent and punish frauds upon the Government of the United States." 2d.—Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. To which charges and specifications the accused pleaded in bar of trial that he had been tried on the same charges in substance and found guilty of conduct highly to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. The court after mature deliberation decided to sustain the special plea of the accused, and discontinued further proceedings in the case, and the proceedings have been approved by Major-General Schofield, and the court dissolved.

Commissary Department.—Major William W. Burns, C. S., November 22 was assigned to duty as C. C. S., Military Division of the Pacific.

Inspection.—Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Jones, A. I. G., November 26 was ordered to inspect the military posts in the Division of the Pacific.

Twenty-first Infantry.—A board of medical officers was appointed to assemble at headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, November 28, to examine and inquire into the physical condition of Captain Valentine M. C. Silva, Twenty-first Infantry, and to report whether, in their opinion, it was such at the time of offering his resignation, March 9, 1873, as to unfit him for forming a correct judgment as to his duty.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

Brigadier-General George Crook: headquarters, Prescott, A. T.

Camp Bowie, A. T.—Although far removed from the centres of civilization, writes a correspondent, and in the midst of what has been but lately a hostile Indian country, it must not be supposed that this garrison is entirely ostracized from all pleasures, as the manner in which our late general Thanksgiving-day was spent can testify. At noon of that day a game of base-ball was played between the "Never-sink B. B. C.," of Camp Grant, and the "Summer B. B. C.," of this post, during which some really fine batting and fielding was displayed, with the following score:

NEVER-SINK.			SUMMER.						
R.	O.		R.	O.					
Deary, D.	2	5	Fagan, S. S.	4	4				
Wilson, C.	5	1	Kehl, B.	6	2				
Dugan, C. f.	2	5	Nicholas, P.	6	2				
Artman, J. b.	5	1	Morgan, I. b.	4	4				
Hennecsey, F. f.	3	3	Moran, C.	6	2				
McClane, I. b.	3	1	Lyons, S. f.	4	3				
Yeasley, L. f.	0	6	Wright, L. b.	3	6				
Talbot, S. s.	2	2	Hamilton, C. f.	3	3				
Richards, J. b.	2	4	Miller, R. f.	4	1				
Total.....	24	37	Total.....	39	27				
Innings	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Never-sink.....	3	0	3	1	2	6	3	4	—24
Summer.....	3	4	2	2	1	6	17	2	—39
Time of game—2 hours 50 minutes.									
Umpire—Burns, Company D, Fifth Cavalry.									

As these clubs—formed from the two garrisons, consisting of Companies D, F, I, L, and M, Fifth Cavalry, and H and F, Twenty-third Infantry—have played several games with varying success, considerable interest was manifested, not alone by the enlisted men of the two posts, but also by the officers, of whom Colonel Crittenden and Major Sumner, Fifth Cavalry, and Captain Haskell, Twenty-third Infantry, were present during the entire game. Immediately after the game a collation was partaken of, and in the evening the festivities of the day wound up with a ball, which the devotees of Terpsichore kept up until the "wee hours of morn." The officers of the garrison, with their estimable ladies, graced the hall with their presence, and in the course of the evening the noted Cachise, with a couple of his warriors, looked in upon the "boys in blue."

THE remains of the late President Zachary Taylor are to be removed from a private burying ground in Jefferson county, Ky., to the State Cemetery.

THE Colt Manufacturing Company at present employ between 600 and 700 men in the manufacture of printing presses, portable steam engines, revolvers, and Gatling guns. The pay roll is \$10,000 larger than two months ago.

ADVICES from the Cape of Good Hope to the 17th of November report that disturbances have occurred near Natal. A band of natives, led by one of their own chiefs, are committing many excesses. The Government has sent the volunteers against them. A son of the Colonial Secretary of Natal was killed in a skirmish.

THE "Associated Veterans of 1846" met in Washington, December 13, for special purposes connected with the proposed national convention of the survivors of Mexico, to be held in that city, on the 15th of January; the President, General J. W. Denver, in the chair, and A. M. Kenaday, Esq., corresponding and recording secretary. The Executive Committee reported that they were arranging to have the status of General Scott unveiled on the day of their meeting. They recommended that General Caleb Cushing, of Massachusetts, be invited to act as the orator of the day and deliver an opening address to the convention. The association directed the corresponding secretary to formally tender the invitation to General Cushing. The chairman also announced that a poem, appropriate to the occasion, will be read by Comrade Albert Pike, of Arkansas.

THE Spanish Government have been providing themselves with fifty thousand arms from the manufactory of the Messrs. Remington, at Ilion, N. Y., and Colonel E. Reinlin, Colonel T. Bermudez, Major V. Sanchez, and seven assistants, have recently visited Ilion for the purpose of inspecting these arms. While there they resolved to while away the time by giving a ball, which came off on the 11th of December, and to which reference has been made elsewhere in the JOURNAL. After the ball, two of the members of the commission tendered an informal reception to some of the members of the recep-

tion committee and of the Utica and Amsterdam delegations. Colonel Bermudez, in reply to a toast to Spain and the United States, expressed the conviction that peace, harmony, and mutual sympathy would ever exist between the two republics. He spoke enthusiastically of the Castelar government, and prayed for a speedy settlement of the disturbances which now harass it. Colonel Watson C. Squire responded in behalf of the Remingtons, expressing the hope that the arms now being manufactured for Spain would never be used against the United States—a wish that was earnestly applauded by the Spaniards.

A VERY creditable specimen of book making, and a very amusing book, is "The Quiddities of an Alaskan Trip," by Captain W. H. Beel, C. S., published some time since (Portland, Oregon, C. A. Steel & Co.). The volume pictorially, with explanatory letter-press, details the adventures of its hero, "the major," from his awaiting orders at Washington, with the thermometer at 110 in the shade, to his advent in hyperborean Alaska, with certain of his experiences there, due to the characteristics of the climate of our new possessions. The drawings, which are numerous, are very clever, and exhibit the humorous talent of their author, though they are not of equal merit. These "Quiddities," we can easily understand, must have afforded in their preparation no end of enjoyment to their designer, exiled in Alaska, and they must also prove a great source of amusement to all who have shared his military lot; and not only those, but many others.

"ORDNANCE MEMORANDA No. 16," issued from the Government printing office, contains the report of the board of officers convened at New York, in January of this year, to examine and report on plans and models of such depressing and other carriages for heavy ordnance as they should deem worthy of trial. The board consisted of Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. French, Second Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Wright, Engineers; Major J. C. Tidball, Second Artillery; Captain D. W. Flagler, Ordnance, and Captain S. N. Benjamin, Second Artillery. They examined and considered plans, drawings, models, and papers, bearing on over fifty devices, and as the result of their labor recommended for trial—Major Benton's apparatus for measuring heavy guns; Service 15-in. barbette carriage increased in height with two air cylinders (Ordnance Department); the Counterpoise gun carriage, devised by Captain A. A. Buffington (U. S. Ordnance); Captain J. Wall Wilson's (U. S. Revenue Marine) device for checking the recoil of heavy guns; Captain W. R. King's (Engineers) counterpoise muzzle-pivoting gun sling; and the depressing carriage devised by the same officer. The board do not wish to be considered as condemning the principle of steam and compressed air as a means of operating and manœuvring depressing and other carriages, but on the contrary hold it in such esteem as to advise its full test and examination; yet none of the plans submitted to them were sufficiently developed to warrant the board recommending them for construction. Finally they advise the adoption of a particular heavy gun carriage to the exclusion of others, leaving the selection in each case to be determined by economy, locality, and the circumstances of general advantage. General Dyer submits the report to the Secretary of War, with the recommendations (1) that the carriages, provided with air cylinders (pneumatic buffers) be adopted; (2) that the centre-pintle chassis for mortar carriages, as constructed by the Ordnance Department, be adopted; (3) that Benton's apparatus for manœuvring heavy guns be tested; (4) that the other systems of carriages recommended by the board, be experimented with whenever the funds for the purpose are available. Accompanying the report are drawings and letter-press descriptions of the devices favorably regarded.

THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL, all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movement of officers or vessels.

SURRENDER OF THE VIRGINIUS.

A SPECIAL correspondent of the New York Tribune, who witnessed the surrender of the *Virginus*, occupies several columns with a description of the surrender, which was a simple affair, best disposed of in fewer words. The names of the officer and vessel appointed to receive the surrender were not disclosed until Sunday afternoon last, when the *Despatch* dropped down to her anchorage at Key West, between the flagship *Worcester* and the *Passene*, and took aboard 39 men from the latter vessel, and finally Captain W. D. Whiting, Chief of Staff to Admiral Scott, Lieutenant Adolph Marx, Ensign G. A. Calhoun, and Assistant Engineer N. H. Lamdin. At about ten o'clock Sunday evening the *Despatch* got under way for Bahia Honda, Cuba, where she arrived at 1:30 P. M. Monday, and anchored in sight of the *Virginus*. Shortly after a boat from the Spanish screw steamer *La Favorita* (3) came alongside the *Virginus*, ran up the stars and stripes, and then pulled away. At the same moment another boat pulled away from the Spanish vessel for the *Despatch*, carrying Commander de la Camara of the Spanish Navy, who announced that he had received a copy of the protocol requiring the surrender of the *Virginus*, and was prepared to execute it either on that or the following day. Captain Whiting replied that he was instructed to receive the vessel on Tuesday, but the hour would be left to the convenience of the Spanish commander. It was then agreed that the ceremony should take place at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning. In reply to a question of Captain Whiting, Commander de la Camara stated that the *Virginus* had coal enough for six days. Salutes were again exchanged, and Senor de la Camara left the ship, the interview not having consumed more than five minutes. In the afternoon Captain Whiting and Lieu-

tenant Marx returned the call, and were received with proper courtesies. "Conversation on this occasion," it is remarked, "was confined to commonplace topics, and remarks about the harbor and the surrounding country." The next day, Tuesday, came the serious business in hand. "At half past eight the gig came over from *La Favorita* to the *Virginus*, containing oarsmen and a single officer. As the latter stepped on deck a petty officer and half a dozen men, who had stood watch on the *Virginus* during the night, went over the side and remained in a dingy awaiting orders. Punctually as the bells on the *Despatch* struck for 9 o'clock, and before the echo had died away, the American flag flew to the flagstaff of the *Virginus*, and at the same moment a boat containing Capt. Whiting and Lieutenant Marx put away from the *Despatch*. As they ascended the accommodation ladder of the *Virginus*, the single man on deck, who proved to be Senor de la Camara, advanced and made a courteous salute. The officers then read their respective instructions, and Capt. de la Camara remarked that, in obedience to the requirement of his Government, he had the honor to turn over the steamer *Virginus* to the American authorities. Capt. Whiting accepted, and ascertaining that a receipt would be acceptable, gave one. A word or two more, civilly spoken, and the Spaniard stepped over the side, signalled to his oarsmen, and in ten minutes he was again upon the deck of his own vessel, having discharged with becoming dignity the unpleasant duty imposed upon him by his Government. No time was lost in putting the *Virginus* in order for sea. Assistant Engineer Lundin of the prize crew and Chief Engineer Harris of the *Despatch* first made an engineering survey, and in twenty minutes reported the engines very dirty, but otherwise in order. In a wonderfully short time thereafter fires were lighted and the vessel reported ready for sea. The *Virginus* proved to be in a most filthy condition, and was stripped of almost everything movable, save a few vermin which haunted the mattresses and cushions in the cabin, and half-a-dozen casks of water. The decks were caked with dirt and nuisances recently committed, combined with mold and decomposition, which caused a foul stench in the fore-cabin and below the hatches. In the cabin the odor of carbolic acid gave evidence that a faint attempt had been made to make that part of the vessel more inhabitable. Our officers were reluctant to put the men into the fore-cabin, and stowed them away into hardly more agreeable quarters, afforded by the staterooms.

The ship was leaking considerably, and the Spanish captain stated that he had kept the pumps going continually since her arrival in order to keep the water down. About two o'clock the *Virginus* steamed about 200 yards, all going well, when the engines suddenly refused to do duty, and it became necessary for the *Despatch* to take her in tow. The two vessels went out of the harbor briskly, the Spanish flag being displayed by the fort as they passed that antiquated apology for a fortification. In an hour the vessels were at sea. At eight o'clock an American war vessel was observed, and the tug *Fortune*, Lieutenant Commander F. M. Green commanding, soon came up and remained with the convoy during the night. In the mean time prize-officers Marx, Calhoun, and Lamdin were unremitting in their labors on the *Virginus*, and at one o'clock she was again under steam. Thirty miles S. E. of Dry Tortugas the *Fortune* left to report to Admiral Scott at Key West, and the *Virginus* and her convoy steamed for Dry Tortugas, where they arrived four hours later, finding the *Ossipee* and a coal schooner awaiting them there with provisions and coal for the *Virginus*, which will probably be sent North. In regard to the manner of the surrender the *Tribune* correspondent says: "The Spaniards seem to throw contempt upon the whole proceedings by smuggling the *Virginus* out of Havana; by selecting an obscure harbor not a port of entry as the place of surrender, and by turning over the duty of surrender to the commander of a little sloop engaged in surveying, while the *Tornado*, which made the capture, lay in the harbor of Havana, and the *Isabel la Catolica*, which had been selected as a convoy, steamed back to Havana under cover of night. I find the officers and American residents in Cuba are unanimous in the opinion that the surrender has not been in accordance with the demands of justice."

VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

THE *Colorado* sailed from New York on December 12. THE *Gettysburg* has arrived at Washington from a trip to the Northern yards.

THE *Franklin* was commissioned at Boston December 15, and expects to sail about the 20th.

COMMODORE WILLIAM REYNOLDS, Chief of the Bureau Equipment and Clothing, will be nominated to the Senate to be Rear Admiral, in the place of Thornton A. Jenkins, who was retired Dec. 12.

THE *Canadian Military Gazette* copies our notice of the organization of the United Naval Association with the following comment:

The following, which we copy from the United States Army and Navy JOURNAL of the 18th inst., shows that our neighbors are taking a lively interest in the dissemination of professional knowledge. Having always numbered in their Army and Navy a class of highly educated and sensible officers, it has been a matter of surprise that associations similar to "The Royal United Service Institution" had not previously existed in the United States. However, the inauguration of the "United Naval Association" will bid fair to supply a want felt in the military world, and that the experience which both branches of the service in the United States can give of the peculiar operations in which they have been engaged. To the military service in Canada this institution will be of great value, because it will be enabled to give an insight to the peculiar mode of warfare on the frontier, and to place on record events which, when detailed by a mere newspaper reporter, possessed no interest at all for a military man, as it failed in technical description and always omitted the objective of the operation. If conducted on the principles of "The Royal United Service Institution," its journals will be a valuable addition to the military literature of the age, and will furnish the opportunity for a strategical and tactical analysis of the operations of the late contest between the Northern and Southern States. We would advocate the organization of a similar institution here, but Canadian soldiers are eligible as members of "The Royal United Service Institution," and a Colonial organization would be superfluous.

As the *Virginus* affair appears to be approaching a

peaceful solution, the probability is that the *Tennessee* and *Florida* will not be put in commission.

THE monitor *Manhattan* and sloop-of-war *Powhatan* arrived at Savannah, Ga., December 16.

THE *Ossipee* put to sea at daybreak on December 16 from Key West, Florida, for Dry Tortugas.

THE mates in the U. S. Navy are preparing a memorial to Congress petitioning for an increase of pay.

THE store-ship *Guard* expects to sail from Trieste about Christmas, or early in January, for the United States.

THE *Shenandoah* left Gibraltar for Key West December 11. The other vessels of the European fleet had preceded her.

J. S. POTTER, of Arlington, A. J. Bailey, of Charleston, and a delegation from that section are in Washington, proposing a change in the Navy-yard patronage.

THE *Saranac* was in Honolulu harbor, Nov. 12, awaiting her relief, the *Richmond*. Admiral Pennock met with a cordial reception from the Sandwich Islands officials and citizens generally.

SERGEANT FREDERICK MEYER, of the Signal Service left Washington to establish a signal station at Albany N. Y. Sergeant Meyer was one of the *Polaris* crew returning with the Tyson party.

THE following despatch was sent from London, December 13, 1873: The *Congress*, 24 rate (16), Captain A. C. Rhind, commanding, and *Wachusett*, 3d rate (6), Commander T. S. Pillsbury, sailed from their anchorage off Funchal on the 5th of December for Key West.

REAR-ADMIRAL A. L. CASE, on board the flagship *Wabash*, of the European Station, was reported on December 12 en route for Key West. Admiral Case, being senior officer, will assume command of the North Atlantic Station, and Rear-Admiral Scott will co-operate with him. We understand that Admiral Porter is making preparations to assume the command of the squadron.

THE Secretary of the Navy has given the U. S. Marines the benefit of the President's proclamation, published in General Orders No. 103 Adjutant General's office, War Department. It provides "that all soldiers who have deserted, who shall, on or before January 1, 1874, surrender themselves, shall receive a full pardon." A circular on this subject is now in press at the Navy Department.

THE Boston *Globe* says: Captain F. A. Roe, executive officer of the Charlestown Navy-yard, was not unkind of the rights of his workmen, as the following order, issued election day, will show: December 9, Pilot Eldridge will have the *Leyden* at the shear wharf precisely at noon and carry over to East Boston such of the workmen as desire to go, returning to the yard in time to resume work again at bell ring. F. A. ROE, Executive Officer of the Yard.

THE *Manhattan* and *Powhatan*, having finished coaling at the Gosport Navy-yard, put to sea at noon December 11, bound direct for Key West. The two ships would have sailed at daybreak but for the reason that they had to wait for high water. Both went off in good condition. Just as the *Powhatan* was leaving the yard orders were received from Washington detaching Ensigns Hugo Osterhaus and H. L. Green from that ship and ordering them to duty on the *Mayflower*. Recruiting for the Marine Corps has commenced at Portsmouth, Va. A lot of recruits raised in Virginia were examined and passed on December 11.

An irregularity was discovered in the Department of Yards and Docks at the Charlestown Navy-yard on Thursday, Dec. 11. A clerk by the name of George Grasham was charged with forging an order for one of the teamsters to take certain metals, to the value of \$500, out of the yard for sale. Grasham has hitherto sustained an excellent character. He has absented himself, and has not yet been arrested. A later report says the irregularity seems to have assumed greater proportions and significance upon a more intimate knowledge of the facts being ascertained than was at first presented. Several parties are implicated.

THE following is a list of the vessels that will share in the New Orleans prize money, according to the decree of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia: The *Hartford*, *Brooklyn*, *Richmond*, *Mississippi*, *Pensacola*, *Cayuga*, *Onetida*, *Varuna*, *Katahdin*, *Kineo*, *Wisahickon*, *Setula*, *Iroquois*, *Kennebec*, *Panola*, *Alaska*, *Winona*, *Portsmouth*, *Harriet Lane*, *Westfield*, *Owasco*, *Clifton*, *Jackson*, *Miami*, *Norfolk Packet*, *O. B. Lee*, *Para*, *William Bacon*, *Sophronia*, *T. A. Ward*, *Mait*, *Vassar*, *George Maughum*, *Osweta*, *S. C. Jones*, *Horace Beales*, *J. Griffith*, *Sarah Bruens*, *Racer*, *Sea Foam*, *Horace Jones*, and *Dan Smith*—forty-three in number. A considerable number of vessels were ruled out.

THE steamer *E. C. Knight* arrived at the Washington Navy-yard on Dec. 13, with a large quantity of stores for the various bureaus. Experiments are about being carried on with torpedoes from the western ship ship-house to the old sunken piles near Guinard's wharf. A large chain cable is extended between these places, and during the coming week the explosions of the torpedoes will be made. The workmen in the Bureau of Steam Engineering, in both the machine and boiler shops, are working until ten o'clock at night. All the other bureaus are working on regular time. Work on the new vessel in the western ship-house is progressing finely, the knees having been already erected. The monitor *Montauk*, which has been undergoing repairs for some weeks past, is ready to be taken to New York, where she will receive new boilers and machinery.

ON December 13 the iron-clad *Catskill* was sent to the Philadelphia Navy-yard from League Island to be prepared for towing to New York. She is to be overhauled by the Continental Works (Messrs. Rowland & Hill), at Greenpoint, by whom she was built. The *Catskill* is single turreted, carrying one fifteen and one nine-inch guns. It will be remembered, while in temporary command of the *Catskill*, Fleet Captain G. W. Rodgers was

killed on board in the attack on Fort Wagner, Charleston harbor, August 17, 1863. She was to have left Philadelphia on December 17 or 18, in tow of the steam-tug *America*, one of the largest and most powerful boats in that vicinity. The *Puritan* lies just as she has done, except that 600 tons of coal has been taken off her decks. It is not thought she will be sent away to rebuild yet, if at all. The piling for the iron plating shop at League Island is nearly all driven, and the frame of the roof of the yards and docks store-house is nearly up. The roof will probably be completed by New Year's.

THE Brooklyn yard, like all the Navy-yards, is still hurried with work. No men have been discharged, and those employed are making considerable preparations and endeavoring to get several vessels ready to go into commission, or prepared for their officers on the following dates: *Minnesota*, December 26; *Roanoke*, December 27; *Florida* and *Dictator*, December 28. The latter vessel was sent to the Erie basin to be docked, as the Spanish frigate *Arapiles* continues to unwillingly occupy the dry dock at the Navy-yard. To prevent any possible mishap to his vessel, or for some other reason, the Spanish captain of the *Arapiles* has ordered the marine guard of the ship on duty during the night, patrolling on the dry dock around their vessel.

THE work at the Philadelphia Navy-yard is progressing with the usual activity. The monitors *Terror* and *Ajax* are rapidly approaching completion, the men employed on them working night and day. The force has been increased. The sloop-of-war *Canandaigua*, which has been lying at the yard for a couple months past, having new boilers put in and undergoing general repairs, sailed Dec. 13. The *Canandaigua* is officered as follows: Captain R. B. Lowry, commanding; Lieutenant Commander Yates Sterling, executive officer; Lieutenant Charles M. Anthony, navigator; Lieutenant Wm. P. Randall and Seaton Schroder; Chief Engineer, O. H. Lackey; Paymaster, H. C. Machette; Surgeon, H. M. Wells; Masters, T. A. DeBlois and L. E. Bixler; First Assistant Engineer, H. H. Cline; Second Assistant Engineer, G. C. Neilson; Acting Assistant Surgeon, H. T. Percy; Midshipmen, C. F. Emmerick and George A. Vail; Second Lieutenant, U. S. M. C. David Whipple; Boatwain, Peter Johnson; Gunner, Cecil C. Neil; Sailmaker, G. Haskins; Carpenter, Thomas McGlone.

THE New Orleans Times of Dec. 7th, says that the business of recruiting sailors, marines, and landmen, for service in the United States Navy, is now being pushed forward at the office of Capt. Wright, in that city. About 800 men have been enlisted and forwarded to New York and Key West. Recruiting is going on at the rate of forty or fifty men a day. They are forwarded to their destination as fast as possible—250 were sent away on Dec. 6. From Lieutenant Commander De W. C. Kells the Times learns that the eight iron-clad monitors, now moored at Algiers, are ready for service at short notice. Their names are as follows: *Winnebago*, 2 guns; *Kewauywin*, 4 guns; *Chickasaw*, 4 guns; *Iris*, 2 guns; *Klamath*, 2 guns; *Yuma*, 2 guns; *Umpqua*, 2 guns; and *Ellah*, 2 guns, all fourth rates. These iron-clads are considered more than sufficient for the defence of the mouths of the Mississippi against any foreign fleet that may be likely to approach with hostile intentions. It was reported in New Orleans that a board of examiners from the Navy Department, at Washington, were there, examining certain steam merchant ships, with a view to employing them as armed transports.

A DESPATCH from Portsmouth, Va., reports that a corps of divers and attendants and their apparatus arrived there December 13 and left on the *Mayflower* the next day for Key West, to work on the bottoms of American men-of-war at that point when occasion requires. The torpedo ship *Mayflower*, Lieutenant-Commander D. M. Dyer, went into commission at meridian December 13, and sailed under peremptory orders for Key West on December 15. The plans of her torpedo fittings, made by Constructor John W. Ensay, are entirely original, and are similar to those on the monitor *Mahopac*, that vessel being the first monitor ever fitted with torpedo attachments. Captain W. N. Jeffers, Chief of Ordnance, visited the yard on December 13 on a tour of inspection. This is now a most important ordnance department, and there is hardly accommodation for the masses of material being brought here. Even the express companies are resorted to to bring torpedoes, etc. The *Gettysburg*, Lieutenant D. C. McRitchie, arrived at the yard on December 12, after a tolerably rough passage from Philadelphia, with a collection of shot, shell, torpedoes, ammunition, and ordnance for the Ordnance Bureau, and a lot of boiler iron, copper, and other stores for steam engineering. During the night the *Gettysburg* took on a supply of coal and proceeded to Washington on December 14.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

DECEMBER 10.—Midshipmen Thomas S. Flunkett and Henry McCrea, and Paymaster F. T. Gillett, to recruiting duty at Chicago, Ill.

DECEMBER 11.—Lieutenant R. C. Hooker, to equipment duty at the Navy-yard, Washington.

First Assistant Engineer James A. Scott, to recruiting duty at Baltimore, Md.

DECEMBER 12.—Lieutenant B. M. Berry and Uriel Sebree; Masters J. M. Hawley and G. L. Dyer; Ensigns G. F. Emmerick and M. C. Dimock; Midshipman A. A. Michelon; Passed Assistant Surgeon W. J. Simon, and Chaplain J. J. Kane, to the *Minnesota* on the 22d inst.

Lieutenant William Welch, to the receiving ship *Potomac*, at Philadelphia.

Master H. T. Monahan and Paymaster M. B. Cushing, to the *Dictator* on the 22d inst.

DECEMBER 13.—Commander James A. Greer, as member of the Board of Inspectors.

Commander Francis H. Baker, as light-house inspector of the Fifth District on the 1st January.

Lieutenant-Commander E. T. Woodward, to the receiving ship Vermont, as executive.

Lieutenant W. L. Field, to special duty with Bureau of Navigation.

Assistant Surgeon C. K. Yancy, to the Navy-yard, Mare Island, Cal.

Carpenter S. A. Whitehouse, and Acting Sailmaker A. W. Stephens, to the *Minnesota*.

DECEMBER 15.—Lieutenant Isaac I. Yates, to the *Canonius*. Acting Assistant Surgeon Briston Stone, to duty at the Marine Barracks, Washington.

Acting Assistant Surgeon J. E. Miller, to the receiving ship *Sabine*, at Portsmouth, N. H.

Paymaster J. A. Smith, to the *Minnesota*.

Passed Assistant Paymaster J. Q. Barton, to the receiving ship Relief, at Washington, D. C.

Assistant Paymaster S. R. Colhoun, to the receiving ship *Potomac*, at Philadelphia, Pa.

DECEMBER 16.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Thomas Chiola, to the Navy-yard, Philadelphia.

Acting Assistant Surgeon William J. Cronyn, to the Navy-yard, Boston.

DETACHED.

DECEMBER 10.—Assistant Paymaster S. Reed Colhoun, from the *Saugus*, and ordered to settle accounts.

DECEMBER 11.—Midshipman N. T. James, from the *Yantic*, Asiatic Station, and ordered to return home and report.

First Assistant Engineer Robert L. Harris, from recruiting duty at Baltimore, and placed on sick leave.

DECEMBER 12.—Captain S. B. Luce, from the Navy-yard, Boston, and ordered to command the *Minnesota* on the 22d inst.

Commander James E. Jouett, as member of the Board of Inspectors, and ordered to command the iron-clad steamer *Dictator* on the 22d inst.

Lieutenant-Commander H. F. Picking, from the Torpedo Station, and ordered to the *Dictator* on the 22d inst., as executive.

Lieutenant-Commander H. B. Robeson, from the Torpedo Station at Newport, R. I., and ordered to the *Minnesota* as executive.

Lieutenant-Commander G. F. Wilde, from the Navy-yard, Boston, and ordered to the *Minnesota* on the 15th inst.

Lieutenant-Commander B. F. Lamberton, from the Naval Academy, and ordered to the *Dictator* on the 22d inst.

Lieutenant A. V. Wadhams, from the Torpedo Station at Newport, R. I., and ordered to the *Dictator* on the 22d inst.

Lieutenant J. E. Pillsbury, from the Torpedo Station at Newport, R. I., and ordered to the *Minnesota* on the 22d inst.

Lieutenant J. M. Farley, from the receiving ship *Potomac* and ordered to the Navy-yard, Philadelphia.

Lieutenant W. C. Easton, from the Navy-yard, Boston, and ordered to the *Dictator* on the 22d inst.

Lieutenant N. H. Barnes, from the *Canandaigua*, and placed on sick leave.

Lieutenant C. H. Stockton, from the Navy-yard, Philadelphia, and ordered to the *Dictator* on the 23d inst.

Mate Samuel Gee, from the receiving ship *New Hampshire*, and ordered to the *Triana*.

Mate H. H. Johnston, from the *Mayflower*, and ordered to the receiving ship *New Hampshire*.

Assistant Surgeon C. U. Gravatt, from the receiving ship *Ohio*, and ordered to the *Minnesota* on the 22d inst.

Chief Engineer W. G. Buehler, from special duty at Wilmington, Del., and ordered to the *Minnesota* on the 22d inst.

Second Assistant Engineer John T. Smith, from the *Manhattan*, and placed on sick leave.

Boatswain Ansel Keen, from the Navy-yard, Boston, and ordered to the *Minnesota* on the 15th inst.

DECEMBER 13.—Commander Fabius Stanly, as light-house inspector of the Fifth District on the 1st January, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant F. P. Gilmore, from the *Frolic*, and ordered to the *Minnesota*.

First Assistant Engineer B. F. Wood, from the *Iroquois*, and ordered to the *Saco*.

First Assistant Engineer G. H. White, from the *Saco*, and ordered to return home and report arrival.

Gunner John Gaskins, from the Navy-yard, Norfolk, Va., and ordered to the *Minnesota*.

Gunner John C. Ritter, from the *Frolic*, and ordered to the Navy-yard, Norfolk.

DECEMBER 15.—Lieutenant A. B. H. Lillie, from the *Canonius*, and ordered to the *Minnesota* on the 22d inst.

ORDERS REVOKED.

The orders of midshipman C. H. Lyeth, to the *Kearsarge*, and ordered to resume duties on the *Tuscarora*.

The orders of Second Assistant Engineer J. H. Diamond, to the *Saranac*, and ordered to the *Terror*.

PLACED ON RETIRED LIST.

Rear-Admiral Thopston A. Jenkins, from December 11, 1873.

MACHINISTS.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

BUREAU OF EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1873.

Circular.

When a sufficient number of machinists, boiler-makers, or copersmiths cannot be supplied to ships going into commission, from the receiving ships, the commanding officers of such ships may appoint them, subject to the provisions of the examination required by the circular of Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting of June 5, 1871, and of January 1, 1873.

This examination is to be made by the chief engineer of the ship, by order of the commanding officer.

During a cruise vacancies may be filled by enlistment, appointment, or by rating.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS, Chief of Bureau.

G. O. No. 184, WASHINGTON, December 5, 1873.

The following Executive Order is published for the information and guidance of all concerned.

GEORGE M. ROBESON, Secretary of the Navy.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

WASHINGTON, December 5, 1873.

The pay of machinists in the Navy of the United States will be seventy-five dollars per month from the first day of January, A. D. 1874.

U. S. GRANT.

REPORTS OF THE NAVAL BUREAUS.

BREVITY, as is usual, marks the report of the Chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting. Commodore Reynolds says that during the past year seventy-five vessels have been partially or wholly equipped at the several Navy-yards, at an expenditure, including labor and materials, of \$832,794.64; and that \$7,445½ tons of coal have been purchased, at home and abroad, at a cost of \$400,071.76; and 200 2-5 tons of Manila hemp at a cost of \$72,832.50.

The rope walk at the Charlestown Navy-yard has supplied the service with Manila and hemp rope. Of both kinds of hemp 304 3-4 tons have been manufactured into rope. The machinery for manufacturing wire rope will soon be in operation.

All anchors, chains, galleys, etc., required to meet the wants of the service have been supplied from the equipment shops at the Washington yard.

The complement of men allowed by law (8,500) has not been exceeded, and in consequence of a falling off of enlistments during the summer, the number was reduced to 7,500. Increased activity in recruiting will soon fill the deficiency.

The difficulty in enlisting men for the naval service becomes more apparent every year, and renders more requisite the necessity of providing by law for the establishment of apprenticeship adapted to the wants of the Navy.

The former recommendations of the Bureau as to furnishing enlisted men with an outfit on entering the service, and as to apprehending deserters after the time of

their enlistment has expired and causing them to serve out their lost time, as is the case in the Army, are renewed.

CHIEF CONSTRUCTOR I. HANSCOM, the head of the Bureau of Construction and Repairs, presents rather a short report to the Secretary of the Navy on subjects under his cognizance. He says that the list of vessels repaired during the past year shows that a very large number, in proportion to the whole, are deteriorating, and their days of usefulness are rapidly passing away. Official statistics give proof that the loss of vessels by war, tear, and the disasters of the sea is equal to ten per cent. per annum; consequently that per centage must be supplied in new vessels every year to keep the original number up. Although Government vessels are built generally of more durable materials than those of the merchant marine, the causes for deterioration in the former are greater than in those of the latter, and therefore if that per centage is not supplied in new vessels to the Navy, there is either a diminution in the number of vessels, or the number can only be kept up by extreme and costly repairs, which has been the course pursued heretofore. He thinks the expenditure would produce a better result if the number of vessels equal to this loss were constructed every year, and it would afford an opportunity for adopting all the improvements of the day, and thus, in proportion to the number, equal other nations in the efficiency of our Navy.

The eight steam sloops authorized by Congress, whose completion is being hastened with due regard to economy, will meet the pressing wants of the Government, so far as that class is concerned. In cases of emergency or redress, naval vessels of a more formidable character are required.

After referring to repairs on our available iron-clads, he says: "Large and powerful sea-going iron-clads, whose power for resistance and attack may be graded from their origin to that of the latest and most approved of the present day, seem to form the principal strength of all important maritime nations, and of which those of the monitor type are considered the most formidable, inasmuch as they present less surface for iron plating, in proportion to their displacement, than that of any other form. Of the above type, there are a number which can be improved and repaired, making very efficient vessels, and which, until the power of ordnance, the resistance of practical iron armor, and the effect of the submerged torpedo are fully developed, would, it is thought, be sufficient."

On the subject of the torpedo he says foreign nations seem to be gradually comprehending the future of a transition of naval iron-clads to the swift, invulnerable torpedo vessel, whose power to destroy any of the most formidable and reliable vessels of war is not disputed. It appears to be the most terrible and destructive implement of warfare ever brought into use upon the ocean. Many objections are urged against its barbarous effect, yet there seems to be no difference in a moral point of view in thus sinking a vessel and all on board with it, than by the shot of a twenty inch gun fired behind an invulnerable breastwork.

With the device for using the torpedoes already well demonstrated, a sufficient number of these invulnerable, swift vessels need only to be built to carry on a successful warfare with any nation known; and our harbors can easily be protected from an enemy without the expensive fortifications now in process of erection.

The report of Engineer-in-Chief W. W. Wood, accompanying the annual report of the Secretary of the Navy, is full of interest to the Engineer Corps of both the Navy and the mercantile marine.

After reciting the machinery repaired during the year, that now under repair, and that to be repaired, he takes up the subject of "machinery partially completed and compound engines." The disposition of the machinery on hand in the Navy-yards, as well as that partially completed (50x43, *Quinnobaug* class), which subject was submitted to a board of officers last spring, composed of Chief Engineers Loring and Baker, is fully discussed in the report of the board, which is embodied in Engineer-in-Chief Wood's. He says the "report contains, in addition to conclusions and suggestions as to the disposition of the machinery, the results of thorough investigations of the theory and practice of the compound engine," and that the tables prepared are from data believed to be absolutely reliable.

The tables are very complete. One of them exhibits "the cost in pounds of steam per horse power per hour of a number of compound and non-compound two cylinder engines, the quantities for the former being computed from the pressure at the termination of the stroke of piston in the high pressure cylinder, and for the latter from the pressure at the termination of the stroke of both pistons as determined by indicator measurement." Comparisons are presented of upwards of forty non-compound engines and about fifteen compound engines.

The Chief of the Bureau says, regarding compound engines, they have never been used in vessels of the U. S. Navy, but have been largely introduced into steamers of the commercial marine, and from the most reliable data the bureau has been able to obtain, the method of using steam of high pressure and expending in separate cylinders (one or more in number, depending upon the power to be transmitted) is more economical and advantageous in its practical application than by the former method in simple cylindered engines, with the pressures heretofore used in such cylinders.

The next point touched on is the "machinery for steam vessels of war," as authorized by the act of Congress of February 10, 1873. The report of the board appointed to examine the designs, Chief Engineers Loring and Baker, and Erasmus W. Smith, A. D. D., presented under advertisement, is embodied in that of Engineer-in-Chief Woods. On this subject the Chief of the Bureau says: "It will be seen that no design presented was considered by the board, as a whole, preferable to those emanating from this bureau, and upon this recommendation the designs of the bureau were

adopted." On proposals to construct the machinery and boilers, they were placed under contract as follows:

Atlantic Works, Boston, two pair—one 800 H. P. for \$175,000; one same power for \$163,000.

James Murphy & Co., New York, one ditto for \$175,000.

John Roach, New York, one pair 560 H. P. for \$120,000.

Woodruff Iron Works, Hartford, one pair 800 H. P. for \$175,000.

Also contract with William Wright & Co., Newburg, N. Y., for one pair of same design 800 H. P. for *Nipsic* for \$175,000.

All to be completed in six months from date of contract.

On the subject of "Internal Corrosion of Naval Boilers," he says that by a careful analysis made at the Naval Laboratory, New York, the rapid corrosion of boilers in steam vessels of the Navy using surface condensers has been found to be caused by cleats of copper formed in the condenser, from which it passes into the boiler, where it is slowly transformed into cleats of iron, driving the iron from the different parts of the boiler with which it comes in contact and precipitating its copper. The cleats of copper adhering to the iron under the condition of high pressures and temperatures, the deposition of copper and the absorption of the iron begins. To prevent this rapid deterioration of steam boilers, an apparatus has been devised and patented by Mr. W. C. Selden, of New York, which has been introduced in several steamers of the merchant marine. The invention consists in a method of arresting the destructive agents formed in the condenser, and preventing their introduction into the boilers. It has been introduced in a few of the steamers of the Navy, and the reports as to its value and efficiency for the purposes which applied are highly favorable, promising great success in prolonging the life-time of boilers to which it may be applied.

Concerning screw propellers, it is stated that in many cases the original screws of four blades were removed from our naval steamers and screws of two blades substituted. These changes were determined on by the Department with a view to rendering such vessels more efficient while under sail alone, by the supposed decreased resistance opposed to the vessel by screws of two blades rather than those of four. In all cases where the change has been made, reports are received of the inefficiency of the two bladed screw, as compared with those of four blades, with which the vessels were originally fitted. With equal propelling surface, no advantage whatever can be derived from using a screw of two instead of four blades while under sail alone, because when screws are uncoupled and revolving freely, screws of four blades oppose no greater resistance to the vessel than one of two. When fixed and held stationary, in a vertical position, behind the stern post, the loss of speed due to the resistance of the screw, expressed in per centage of the speed, has been determined by careful experiment to be 18.39 per cent., while the four or two-bladed screw, revolving freely by the pressure of the water, gives a resistance of only 9.96 per cent., being very nearly two to one in favor of the revolving screw. The shocks caused to the vessel by the blades passing the stern post are diminished as the number of blades are increased—the four-bladed screw producing less vibration in the ship than one of three, and the one with three blades less than one with two. The propelling efficiency of a screw is entirely independent of the number of its blades, but is wholly dependent upon the area, the pitch, the fraction of the pitch used, and the area of the circle described by the blades.

To diminish the shocks and vibration, more or less incidental to the use of the screw propeller, the largest amount of clearance admissible for the screw between the stern and rudder post should be given. It is obvious, then, that a post intended for a screw whose area is contained in four blades, cannot receive a screw of two blades having the same area, pitch, and fraction of the pitch, for that screw must be just double the length of the former in the line of its axis. Consequently the two-bladed screws which were substituted for those of four blades, were necessarily constructed of less propelling area as the post openings of the vessels could not be enlarged. Hence the inefficiency of the screws substituted as reported.

The report concludes with a reference to the "engineer force on ship-board," of which there are many complaints of its inefficiency under its present organization, leading to the belief that the position given the machinist in the service is not of sufficient importance to induce the class of men really needed for this duty to accept the rates. The places of firemen are generally taken by men known as "seamen engineer force," and "ordinary seamen engineer force." The old firemen do not enlist under these new regulations and rates, as was expected, and the rates are given frequently to persons who know nothing or little about the duties of firemen. It is suggested that as many first and second class firemen as could together be able to do duty as oilers, and properly fire all the furnaces, be shipped for duty in the steam department only, and that when steaming landmen be taken from deck for coal heavers.

Surgeon-General Joseph Beale, chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, after giving a clear statement of the condition of the several naval hospitals and their respective wants (most of which seem to be in need of repairs and appropriations), presses attention upon the condition of the Naval Hospital Fund, which has become greatly reduced. This fund on the first of January, 1869, amounted to \$421,044 12; but on the first of October, 1873, to \$18,668 35—upwards of \$317,000 having been applied to the construction of the hospitals at Mare Island and Annapolis. Appropriations are now necessary to maintain this fund.

Regarding the medical corps, he says its "present condition is well calculated to excite uneasiness as to its future. There are now thirty vacancies in the grade of

assistant surgeons, and resignations are still pending. Already the bureau finds considerable embarrassment in procuring medical officers for the duty to be performed. But few candidates for admission present themselves before the medical board, and of these not more than one-fourth are found qualified for a commission. The result is not owing to any unusual strictness in the examinations, but to the want of the necessary qualifications on the part of candidates. The proof of this is seen in the written portions of the examination, which the rules of the Department wisely require to be lodged with the bureau. Whilst it is far from being assumed that boards are infallible, a perusal of this work in most instances carries with it convincing vindication of the soundness of their judgment. The facilities for obtaining medical degrees are so great that the possession of a diploma is no longer, *per se*, an evidence of merit. Hence the duty devolves on the board to exercise great vigilance in scrutinizing the pretensions of those coming before it. Then, too, the emphatic words of the Department, announcing that "the health and lives of the officers and men of the Navy are objects too important to be entrusted to ignorant or incompetent persons," are a continual reminder to the board "not to report favorably upon any case admitting of a reasonable doubt." An obvious reason exists why assistant surgeons in the Navy should possess high qualifications, even higher than medical men practising on shore. In difficult cases the latter has the privilege of consulting with older and more experienced practitioners, while the former is often left to depend on his own resources alone. The experience of naval medical boards shows that although a candidate may not always come up to the established standard, yet he may give such proofs of general aptitude that his failure is obviously more due to want of opportunity than of capacity. If this omission could in any way be supplied, a valuable and much needed acquisition might be secured to the Navy."

A school of instruction, under control of the Department, for candidates of the description mentioned, as well as for assistant surgeons preparing for their second examination, is recommended, and New York or Philadelphia is suggested as the proper locality for it, where there are large naval and civil hospitals, with museums and facilities for the study of practical anatomy.

The Naval Laboratory, under its present excellent management, has furnished the Navy with a full stock of the best medicines. The opportunity this establishment would afford of acquiring a practical knowledge of pharmacy, and to a more limited extent of chemistry, is considered an additional reason why such a school as is suggested should be located at New York.

The bureau publications are referred to in commendatory terms, which, although on a modest scale, have been extensively sought after, and are believed to possess considerable intrinsic value. A more comprehensive medical and surgical work is in the course of preparation, and when completed will place within the reach of the profession an amount of valuable information now buried in journals and reports.

General Zeilin, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Navy, states that after a thorough inspection of the principal marine stations, it gives him pleasure to find the troops in a most excellent state of discipline and efficiency, and the public property under their immediate charge in good order and well cared for. The duties of the marines at the several Navy-yards being chiefly confined to guarding the public property, there is little occasion for that active military duty which perfects the soldier in his profession, yet the equipment, drill and high state of discipline of the several commands were all that could be desired, and gave assurance that if ever required for more active duty the country would not be disappointed in them. At the stations where there are permanent barracks, the quarters and grounds were in the best condition. At Pensacola and Annapolis the troops still occupy temporary buildings belonging to the Navy proper, which have heretofore perhaps answered the purpose very well, yet they are but very lightly-built structures, and cannot be much longer used for the purpose without extensive repairs.

He reports the *St. Lawrence*, used for quarters at Norfolk, very much in need of repairs, requiring a thorough overhauling; and again asks that the Department may deem it proper to call the attention of Congress at the present session to the want of good and permanent barracks at that place. The yard at that point having again become one of the principal naval stations, should have a large and efficient force of marines in readiness, at all times, for service, in permanent quarters in the yard or immediately adjacent thereto. He believes a good and proper site within the present boundaries could be spared without interfering with the naval operations of the yard.

There are in the Marine Corps 2,331 enlisted men, about 1,000 of which are on board vessels in commission. Desertions have been less numerous during the past year, though a large number still leave the service in that manner. The special attention of commanding officers has been called to that subject, and he feels satisfied that every effort consistent with the good of the service has been made by them to check the evil. Recruiting officers have been enjoined to enlist none but men of good moral character and habits, so far as can be ascertained. The regulations regarding pay, rations, clothing, etc., have been strictly complied with, and every indulgence granted to the men, yet the crime continues painfully frequent, and is beyond any remedy he can apply.

He recommends that the Marine Band, which is now generally regarded as a "National Band," be placed upon a more respectable footing as regards its organization, pay, etc. Its numbers should be increased and its pay fixed at such a rate that the services of first-class musicians could at all times be commanded. Being at the seat of Government, its services are called for on all occasions of public ceremony—civil as well as military. The estimates for the coming year have been confined to the absolute wants of the service, and are somewhat less than those for the previous year.

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The undersigned invites applications from parties willing to go to Egypt, in the service of the Khedive, as Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Major of the staff, and as Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Major of Engineers, on a contract for five years, with the same pay as is now allowed by law in the United States service (including transportation out and back). Applicants should not be over thirty-five years of age and must be men of education and experience and with a good record either in the Regular or Volunteer Army. Those speaking or writing the French language preferred.

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REFERENCES BY SPECIAL AGREEMENT.
General Sherman, U. S. Army, and lady, Washington, D. C.;
Admiral David B. Porter, U. S. N., Washington, D. C.; Major-General G. G. Meade, U. S. Army, Philadelphia; Brevet Brigadier-General George Sykes, U. S. Army; Brigadier-General I. N. Palmer, U. S. Army, Omaha, Neb.; Brigadier-General L. P. Graham, U. S. Army, San Francisco, Cal.; Brigadier-General Wm. M. Graham, U. S. Army, Fort Hamilton, N. Y.; Mrs. Admiral Dahlgren, Washington, D. C.

THE General of the Army, the *Washington Chronicle* says, is in favor of Congress making some further change in the staff grade of the Army. He has plainly intimated this to the House Committee on Military Affairs, to whom he states that he is in reality occupying the position of a staff officer, although by law he is the General of the Army, but as all orders to commanders of departments emanate from the War Department through the sole direction of the Secretary of War, his position is nominally that of a staff officer. In this respect the attention of the House Military Committee has been asked to give the subject consideration, with a view to making a change.

FROM St. Louis comes the announcement that the St. Louis Mutual Life Insurance Company, in which many officers have taken policies, has decided to transfer its assets and liabilities to the Mound City Life Insurance Company, which has a surplus fund of half a million dollars. Confidence is the vital breath of a life insurance company, and the recent attacks upon the St. Louis company have so seriously affected its future prospects as to make it inexpedient to go on. The agents of the St. Louis company in this city inform us that the interests of policy holders will be amply provided for, so that those who wish can continue their policies in a sound company at the rate now paid. In any case it should be remembered that the payment for each year is on insurance for that year, and for that year only. This insurance policy holders in the St. Louis have had, as it has been, and still is, as we learn, in a condition to pay its policies falling, and to provide for those that may be continued. So much humbug has been afloat on the subject of life insurance as an investment that policy holders become confused on the subject and reason very differently from what they would in case of fire insurance, where no one expects any protection beyond the year his premium covers. It is clear that the life insurance business of this country, as a whole, has been conducted on unsound principles, and it is very perplexing to Army insurers to know which way to turn for safety unless some plan for mutual protection should grow out of the discussion already opened in our columns.

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1873.

Office No. 39 Park Row, New York.

SUBSCRIPTION, SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

The postage on the JOURNAL is twenty-five cents a year, payable quarterly in advance, at the office where received.

The subscription price of THE ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL is SIX DOLLARS a year, or THREE DOLLARS for six months, invariably in advance. Remittances may be made in a Post Office money order, United States funds, or Quartermasters', Paymasters', or other drafts, which should be made payable to the order of the Proprietors, W. C. & F. P. CHURCH. Where none of these can be procured, send the money, but always in a registered letter. All postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever requested to do so.

Subscribers changing their address, or renewing their subscriptions from a post-office other than the one to which their paper is sent, should be particular to state where their paper was last addressed. Orders for changing the address of periodicals with which the JOURNAL clubs should be sent direct to the office of such publications.

Rates of Advertising.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line space; four insertions 20 cents; thirteen insertions, 18 cents; twenty-six insertions, 15 cents; fifty-two insertions, 12 cents. Editorial page advertising column, 40 cents per line.

OUR NAVAL DEFENCES.

THE ignorance displayed by the average daily journalist in his discussions of affairs purely naval and military, is apt to be very dense. Still, we did not expect from a paper of so high a character as the *Evening Post* of New York so much misapprehension of the whole subject of naval defence, and the requirements of a modern naval establishment, as it exhibited in a recent article on the "Efficiency of the Navy." Its view is substantially that Secretary ROBESON, in asking Congress for a special appropriation to put our naval defences on a footing that shall be somewhere near adequacy to our national position and national safety, makes an extravagant demand and invites an unnecessary expenditure. "He wants money in advance to build up the Navy," says the *Post*. "In our view this is not necessary. The prospect of peace is good."

The fallacy of this argument ought surely to be easily made apparent. There is little prospect of a recurrence of the Chicago and Boston fires. Why, therefore should those cities maintain fire departments more than adequate to suppress the fires actually likely to take place? It is many years since we have had a fire of great extent in New York, and there is no immediate prospect of one. The insurance companies are taking risks at quite low rates. Why, then, the large appropriations asked for next year for the fire department? The Indians just now seem to be quiet on the Plains. Why maintain the Army out there at so great a cost? The fact is—it seems like talking common-place to assert it—society and nations must keep themselves prepared to meet possible contingencies if they expect to maintain their integrity. It is not very probable that the *Thunderer* and *Devastation* will steam into our harbor before the year is out and exact tribute from New York, but it is possible, and as things now are, they could do it. "The prospect of peace" with Spain "is good," but if war were to come we should, as every naval officer knows, expose ourselves to the possibility of a national humiliation which would make every newspaper in the land howl with indignation. The money for which the Secretary asks is no more than necessary to put us in condition for proper defence, to say nothing of aggressive warfare. The question of economy, which the *Post* raises, is always an important one; but it should concern rather the proper expenditure of the money asked for than the appropriation itself. The economical question, when it thus arises, will assuredly receive at our hands as careful attention as the *Post* itself could give it. The danger is not in the expenditure of the money, but that it shall not be so expended as to obtain all the results of which it is capable. Herein will rest matter for grave discussion, which may well engage the interest of every one concerned in our national security.

Before steam was introduced as a naval motor, before armor was applied to war vessels, our sea coast forts at New York, Boston, Charleston, and other points were no doubt fully adequate to destroy a hostile fleet that should attempt to pass them in order to capture the cities they were built to defend. Of their kind they were excellent, but

within the last decade the whole system of such defences has been revolutionized, and forts which once were fairly impregnable, are to-day of scarcely more account for defence than pasteboard boxes. No one who has the slightest knowledge of the great changes, which have occurred in naval warfare can now hold the opinion that our forts are equal to the defence of our cities. To be of avail against the latest naval constructions, they must be assisted by floating defences and systems of sub-marine attack. If the outbreak of war should find us without these indispensable adjuncts to land defences, we might forget our maxims of economy in the presence of actual peril to our great cities. What have we to offer, except an untried and still doubtful torpedo system, to prevent a foreign iron-clad fleet from entering, for example, the harbor of New York? It is substantially nothing: and if the capital and business of the city were aware of the fact they would tremble for their security.

The *Post's* article reads as if it might have been written twenty years ago, and suggests the reminiscences of some superannuated salt. To talk of finding in the building up of our merchant marine and the consequent increase in the number of our efficient mariners an offset to the scientific preparation of our possible enemy, is to talk childish nonsense. Assuredly our merchant marine should be restored by such encouragement of legislation as it wise and lawful to its own position, but its restoration will never save us, otherwise unprepared, from the assaults of modern iron-clads, nor should we hazard the lives of brave seamen and imperil the safety of populous cities by leaving them without the defences, which the advance of marine warfare renders necessary.

Forts, it is now admitted, are entirely inadequate to prevent the passage of a fleet through an unobstructed channel. The experiences of New Orleans and Mobile Bay are pre-eminent examples. Floating defences and methods of sub-marine attack have become absolutely essential. It is in this direction that safety and economy both require that we should be liberal of expenditure.

THE *Virginian* has been turned over to our naval authorities in the Gulf, according to the contract it would seem, but in a manner which shows with what ill grace the Spanish authorities yielded to the necessity. The surrender took place at an obscure Cuban port, and at the hands of a subordinate officer attached to a surveying vessel. If the surrender was to be made at all, it should have been made in a manner more becoming our own dignity and that of Spain. However, we suppose we must yield something to the peculiar position of the Spanish Government and accept even this settlement of the *Virginian* as trouble a proof both of the actual power of the Castelar government, and the possibility of modern enlightened nations arranging their differences by rational and peaceful diplomacy instead of cruel and expressive wars. It shows at least that the madness of the Cuban slaveholders is evanescent, and capable of restraint by the cool exercise of authority. It also demonstrates the substantial weakness of the *Casino Espanol*, and heralds the overthrow of that baneful organization. Happily for civilization and humanity, there is now hopeful prospect that the last stronghold of slavery is fatally breached. Still it is doubtful if we should have reached even the result we have if Spain had not been crippled in power by intestine troubles to such an extent as to alarm even the hot-heads of Havana as to the issue of a conflict with us. The Cuban Spaniards, wild as they are, yet have periods of calmer reflection in which they weigh the logical issues of events, and their unreasoning pride, when brought face to face with danger to their power and interest, submits itself to their intellect. They discovered that, in the turmoil of Spain there was only one real government, and it was that of the existing republic, which demands obedience to its treaty at the peril of the loss of its support in case of war; that even if afforded, such support would be essentially weakened by home complications. So they listened to the voice of self-interest and swallowed their fire-eating words, and when they woke up one morning to find the *Virginian* gone from the harbor of Havana, they neither assassinated the Captain-General nor mur-

dered the Americans there; but accepted the fact with the best grace they could assume.

The Department of State received information December 17, that the *Virginus* was released on the morning of the 16th, at 9 o'clock, and sailed from Bahia Honda at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The news of the surrender of the *Virginus* was also communicated to this Government Wednesday afternoon by Admiral POLO, who was advised thereof by Captain-General JOVELLAR. No information had been received at that date concerning the *Virginus* survivors at Santiago de Cuba, but no doubt exists that they were delivered up to our authorities Wednesday. The following despatch has been received by Secretary ROBESON.

KEY WEST, Dec. 17.

The Hon. Geo. M. Robertson, Secretary of the Navy.

The *Virginus* was promptly put into our hands yesterday at the appointed time. Your orders will be carried into effect with all despatch. Further information will be telegraphed to-morrow.

G. H. SCOTT,

Rear-Admiral Commanding.

This Government insisted that the *Virginus* should be given into its possession at a Cuban port, and the Spanish authorities chose Bahia Honda.

THE Honorable S. S. COX, member of Congress from New York, is, like SHAKESPEARE'S Yorick, "a fellow of infinite jest." As such he has established a certain sort of popularity among his fellow-members, though it would be difficult to discover in his case the basis for such a reputation as a legislator should seek for—the reputation founded upon actual accomplishment in the work of practical legislation. He has, among other things, distinguished himself by opposing the various schemes for improving our naval establishment; but behold, as soon as we are in a difficulty with Spain he hurries off to Steinway Hall to stir up the passions of the mob, and then goes on to Washington to lecture his fellow-members upon their unwillingness to plunge at once into a war. "Even if we had the pluck," said this doughty champion, "we have not got the guns to go inside the harbor of Santiago de Cuba and take the *Virginus* thence. We want a stronger Navy, a better spirit—a little of the old spirit which belonged to the country in the better days of the republic." We can tell Mr. COX what we need quite as much as a "stronger Navy," and that is fewer demagogues in Congress. The country will never witness the return of the "better days" for which he sighs, until the capacity to shout from a platform is everywhere estimated at its true value; and is Mr. COX really willing to trust himself to those times?

In the speech from which we quote he said: "There is no question of the fact that the House is pusillanimous before all the world;" to which General HAWLEY pertinently replied that:

He had no admiration for that cheap sort of bravery, but he would not retort by any remarks that would be equally cheap. He would not ask that gentleman why, when there was a grand opportunity a few years ago to plunge into a fight on the one side or the other, and it was not material on which side, he had not gone into it! I say, continued Mr. HAWLEY, that a man is guilty before God and his country who dare stand here and trifle with this great question. He does not know what war is, or, if he does, then is he ten times the more guilty. I knew a man once who was extremely anxious to get into one of these little fights. The war had been progressing about a year and a half, and he had been assigned to fancy duty at some distant post, and complained that he never saw a fight. We started an expedition, and gave this gallant colonel the command of it. He came suddenly upon the enemy, and the Confederates opened a terrible fire upon him. In three minutes' time he came out of it and came out handsomely, but left about eighty men behind him. I asked him that same evening how he liked it. "Well," said he, "I am satisfied, but when I was in the fight a minute or two and saw men falling down all around me, I thought to myself, can't this confounded thing be compromised in some way?" (Laughter.)

No one who knows our Army and Navy will accuse them of any disposition to shirk a fight; but we can assure Mr. COX that those who are most familiar with war and its details are the last to speak of it flippantly or to lightly assume the responsibility of provoking it unnecessarily.

THE marriage of General W. W. BELKNAP, Secretary of War, to Mrs. AMANDA T. BOWERS, youngest daughter of the late Dr. J. A. TOMLINSON, took place at Harrodsburg, Ky., on the evening of December 11, at 8 o'clock, at the residence of the bride's brother, Dr. WM. TOMLINSON. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. C. VENABLE, in the presence of a select company of the nearest relatives of the bride and a young son of General BELKNAP, and consisted of the beautiful and impressive marriage service of the Episcopal church. The bride was given away by her kinsman, Hon. GEORGE H. PENDLETON, of Ohio. A special train on the Kentucky

Central Railroad carried the bridal party to Washington the next day.

In obedience to the request of the House Military Committee, General HOWARD appeared before them December 17, and signified his willingness to answer the charges made against him in a recent letter of the Secretary of War to Congress. As a preliminary step, he asked leave to file the following disclaimer:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 17, 1873.

Hon. John Coburn, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.

Sir: In accordance with the request of yesterday, received from your committee, I appear to make answer, as preliminary to a formal rebutting of the charges in a letter of the Hon. Secretary of War, dated December 4, 1873, and referred to your committee. Permit me to state:

First—That I court the fullest possible examination into all the subjects therein named.

Second—Having never been averse to a trial by any proper tribunal, civil or military, upon official charges with any shadow of foundation, I deprecate the statement of my accuser, that "a general court-martial became barred in part under a statute of limitations," and if it be legally possible so to do, I wish to waive all rights and privileges accorded me under such statute, to the end that the "public benefit" may receive no detriment.

Third—In considering the alleged irregularities and violations of law in the conduct of the late Freedmen's Bureau, I am confident of my ability clearly to prove that, acting as Commissioner in an administrative capacity, I am neither morally nor legally responsible for either of the several counts set forth in the Secretary's letter, and therefore not personally or officially accountable for any portion of the sum which makes up the aggregate therein charged. Certainly, it is against the usage of every department of the Government to hold me pecuniarily accountable for the defalcations of subordinate officers, where no collusion whatever is even claimed.

With this brief statement, I shall gladly submit to the examination and judgment of the committee of the work of the late Freedmen's Bureau, or such portion of it as may be necessary, the manner of its performance and my own record, official and personal, connected with it, with a view to a final complete settlement of the questions at issue, and which have been so annoying to my friends and such a prolific source of public scandal. Very respectfully,

O. O. HOWARD,
Brigadier-General, U. S. A.

FROM the Ordnance Bureau of the Navy Department issues, under the title of "Notes on Torpedoes," a translation of an elaborate article in the *Revue Maritime* of January, 1873, on torpedo vessels in naval engagements. The author of the article is J. LEHNERT, Lieutenant de Vaisseau, Austrian navy. He discusses torpedoes of the WHITEHEAD-LUPPIS and HARVEY systems, and the manner of meeting and withstanding their attack, but has nothing to say of the systems of LAY or ERICSSON. Appended to the pamphlet is a further translation from the same magazine, giving the objections raised against the HARVEY system by the Italians, who subjected it to trial with the result of their forming but a mediocre opinion of the method of towing torpedoes. For our own part, we find their arguments to be of weight. The author holds that in squadron engagements, as in those of single vessels, "ramming will always remain the supreme act," and that "every captain having his vessel under control, will end, sooner or later, in taking close quarters." A description of the "FISH," or WHITEHEAD-LUPPIS torpedo, concludes the material of the pamphlet, which well deserves the attention of our Navy officers.

THE Omaha Republican, remarking upon the recommendation in General ORD's annual report on the subject of courts-martial for private soldiers, says:

The remarks of General ORD in his report showing the different sorts of justice administered by courts-martial upon the soldiers, and towards their brother officers, show that there is in the Army too much of the feudal system to suit the times and the needs of the Army of this republic. The merciful, and but just effects of a trial by their peers are enjoyed by the officers, and when a court, composed of men "who know how it is themselves," come to try an officer, he is pretty sure that they won't be too hard on him; and that is just what the soldier does not get when he is tried by officers alone. A few soldiers on his court would place them on their dignity and mashhood with an inducement to study the laws; and what a lift from his now apparently hopeless condition of the prisoner being tried, and which now causes many a poor fellow perhaps guilty of an act which makes him amenable to the law, to feel that the circumstances under which it was unintentionally or inadvertently committed, cannot be understood or appreciated by officers alone who have never occupied a similar position, and so he pleads guilty and goes to his "prison," or "ball and chain," with only a hope that his captain may intercede for him. Some officers think the plan of detaching soldiers on courts-martial when one of them is to be tried, works well in the German and French armies, but would not work in ours, because our soldiers are not of a sufficiently high standard. Do such officers think for a moment our soldiers cannot in battle contend equally with the French and Germans, and does that not require intelligence? Did not the rebellion show every time that brains won the battle, other things being equal? If our enlisted men are not now fit to be trusted in the administration of their own laws, in the execution of which they have to be so often trusted, then the sooner they become so by a proper system of recruiting, the better it will be for the country and for the Army.

The present Secretary of War has, we believe, more than once called the attention of Congress to the importance of a revision of the present military

code, especially with reference to limiting and defining the sentences which may be inflicted by courts-martial. There is no doubt that allowing the class of men to be tried to be represented upon the court would have its effect in protecting the enlisted man or private from the bad effects of unnecessary martinetism; but whether the Regular service needs such a clause in the code can only be decided by a searching examination into the proceedings of courts-martial, and of the sentiment prevailing among the most reliable and judicious men of our Army. We believe that no army excels that of the United States in the fairness and integrity of its officers, when called on to act as judges and jury in the trial of soldiers, and that it will not do to accept always the statements of prisoners; yet under the existing code the enlisted man is entirely at the mercy of his officers, and an intelligent and loyal private as a member of a court could doubtless often ask questions of witnesses—who as a rule only testify under question—which would bring out information or facts of the existence of which officers who never mingle with the men socially are necessarily ignorant, and which might affect the prisoner.

ON Friday, December 5, Mr. W. J. O'BRIEN, of Maryland, offered a resolution in the House of Representatives directing the Secretary of the Navy to report to the House the names, if any, of all officers in the United States Marine Corps, who, having been appointed to the military or naval academies, had been dismissed, or from any cause had failed to graduate. Also the names, if any, who were appointed to said corps after having failed to pass the necessary examination, and why such appointments were made. Although seemingly a very mild and harmless resolution of inquiry, it produced such an unusual sensation as to astonish the introducer himself. The Washington correspondent of the *Baltimore Sun*, dated December 7, states that in a moment half a dozen members, including General BUTLER, SCOTFIELD, and others had gathered around Mr. O'BRIEN, and begged him to withdraw the resolution, which Mr. O'BRIEN refused to do, but as there was an objection it was, of course, not considered.

"The opposition to the resolution," the *Sun* states, "may be accounted for from the fact that it has been notorious for several years that the Marine Corps has been the receptacle for young men, whose fathers had position or fortune, who failed to pass for the military or naval academy, or who from any cause were dropped from the rolls—in the Marine Corps the examination being a mere form. Mr. O'BRIEN will press his resolution at the earliest opportunity and demand a vote upon it. In 1869 the number of ex-military and naval cadets, better known among their comrades as 'bilgers,' who had found refuge in the Marine Corps, had been reduced by dismissal and resignation to eight, and it was earnestly hoped among the ambitious officers of the corps that it would never be greater; but of late years the proportions have largely increased.

PRESIDENT MACMAHON has responded promptly to the appeal in behalf of Bazaine, and has commuted his sentence to twenty years' exclusion. He is to be spared the humiliating ceremony of degradation from rank without being otherwise relieved from the effect of his sentence to degradation. In a letter to his counsel, thanking them for their efforts in his behalf, Bazaine says: "I shall not appeal against the sentence, not wishing to prolong in the eyes of the world the spectacle of such a painful struggle. I request you to take no further steps. I look no longer to men for judgment. Strong in my conscience, which reproaches me with nothing, I confidently await the justification which will come with the lapse of time and the subsidence of party passions." In a subsequent letter to MacMahon, he says: "You remembered the days in which we served the country together. I feared that the impulse of your heart would be overmastered by State considerations. I should have died, without regret, since the recommendation of the court for mercy vindicates my honor." M. Lachaud, Bazaine's counsel, in a letter to ex-President Thiers, thanks him for having expressed his opinion that the Marshal was innocent of the charges upon which he was tried. The island of Sainte-Marguerite, off Cannes, has been selected as the place of confinement for the Marshal. The news of the commutation of his sentence he received without emotion.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

THE MASON OF MONTEREY.

"THE lurid sun hung low and dread
Upon the plain of Monterey,
Where, 'mongst the dying and the dead,
A young and wounded soldier lay.

Forth from the cannon's iron throat
Hoarse thunder burst, and gleaming flame
And mingled with the bugle note,
The far-off shout of triumph came.

Yet heeded not that shout of pride
The soldier stretched upon the plain.
Fast rolled away life's purple tide,
And fever burned in every vein.

His thoughts were in his native land,
Among the friends he held most dear;
Again he felt the breezes blow,
And saw the waters shining clear.

"Alas," he sighed, "delicious dream!
Those scenes shall never meet me more.
Oh! for one draught from that sweet stream
That flows beside my father's door!"

Just then a mason passing by,
By some kind angel's mercy sent,
Heard the poor youth's desponding sigh,
And listened to his sad lament.

He brought him water bright and clear,
He bandaged every bleeding wound;
Then bore him on his breast secure,
Far from the bloody battle-ground.

Long life and death together strove,
And long life's lamp burned dim and low;
But in his faithful work of love,
Ne'er did the mason weary grow;

And saw, with deep, intense delight,
Health smile upon the grateful youth,
And heard him bless that order bright
Whose lovely guiding star is truth.

That order's bright, pure sons are found
Where'er the foot of man may rove;
All pouring richest blessings round—
The ministers of peace and love.

This copy of the above lines was given me June 1, 1861, by one of my comrades in the then besieged Fort Pickens, Fla. The author's name is unknown to me. They have been preserved as a souvenir of a not unpleasant time, and not having been seen of late years in print, they are sent to the JOURNAL with the thought that perhaps their publication will be acceptable to many of its readers.

DRY TORTUGAS, FLA., Nov. 22, 1873.

A CONVERT TO EDITORIALS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: I am so much afraid that I have hurt your feelings by confessing that I didn't read the editorial, that I hardly know what to do. But indeed I didn't know that people were expected to read editorials—except, may be, other editors, so that they might have something to write about, and those sticks of people who never skip anything that they once start on, whether it is Pollok's "Course of Time," or the President's message. And you have been so good about it, too, that it makes me really feel very badly. And indeed after this I will read every word, just for your politeness.

Do you know it's a very solemn thing to write for the first time to a newspaper? It's very much like getting married. It's great fun writing the letter, just as a flirtation is, and it makes you jump after it goes off in the mail and you can't get it back, just as you feel when you've accepted somebody and wonder after it's all over whether you're quite sure about yourself (not that I ever had any doubt about loving Charley—the dear old fellow!) but then I suppose some girls must feel a little queer next day; and then when the wedding hour arrives it's almost as bad as getting that particular "journal" and trembling to actually see one's words in print, just as one shudders over "obey him and serve him, love, honor, etc.," when the clergyman looks so serious, and you've gone so far that you have to say it after him. Indeed I didn't like to look up when the orderly brought in the mail and Charley opened his ARMY AND NAVY, and then—but never mind, I shan't rehearse that little episode.

But I think you're right unkind to put ALL ABOUT CHARLEY in great big letters at the top of my little letter. It wasn't all about Charley; it wasn't about Charley at all. It was about asking some questions that Charley won't answer (I know he could perfectly well if he only would, but he keeps putting me off just to tease). So I thought I would "cut the Gordian knot"—isn't that the proper figure for such a case? for if it isn't, leave it out if your print this, please—and ask you to tell me; for I take it what we have editors for is to supply, not brains exactly, but intelligence to other people. I had to explain a little about Charley, of course, for if I didn't how would you know how I came to read THE ARMY AND NAVY? Now isn't that perfectly reasonable, and don't you see how near you came to making me ridiculous by having people think I was writing to all the world about my husband?—for he is my own husband, and not other people's.

And so I thought when I began to ask you questions (for trying to get at the bottom of some of these things is just wearing me out, and I must ask some), that if I should also mention some little expedient or other for avoiding a privation of our isolated and peculiar life, perhaps some one else would support my fire. There! isn't that a good military figure? For "in a multitude of counsellors there is safety," as the chaplain said last Sunday, and "as the committee on the conduct of the war thought, bless 'em," growled Charley, *sotto voce* in commentary.

But you are perfectly provoking in the way you pretend to misunderstand my very first sentence. I didn't say Charley was a great man, as you make believe; but a great man. Charley is only a captain, and how can a captain be a great man? All I said about him or about greatness was that I write his name Charley and not *Charlitz*, because he isn't merely a big boy. And if I didn't use just those words, it was perfectly evident what I meant—*ne comprenez-vous pas?* Of course you do. Then why did you pretend to be so stupid and print it so as to lead some unreasoning man into a foolish mistake? *Charlitz* is a boy's name; *Charley* is a nice name for a man. Now do understand people.

Now one of my questions is this: Why do they issue so many orders in Washington on the same subject? I once saw a little boy trying to jump across a ditch. First he swung his arms backward and forward and made a succession of little curtseys, till he looked like a bewitched sewing-machine, and then he stopped and took a big stone in each hand and swung back and forth again, and then with one fair leap he cleared the ditch nicely. After he got over I asked, "Little boy, why did you swing your arms so long?" And he said, "I was getting a good ready." Presently another boy came along, and, without stopping to prepare, made a leap and jumped into the ditch. After a while he scrambled out on the other side, where he wanted to be. Now it often seems to me that the War Department orders are like the second boy—after a time they attain what they start for, but in the first effort they generally alight at the bottom of some ditch, and scramble very hard before they reach dry ground. Now if they would only "get a good ready" before starting, they might leap clear every time. And how much better it would be to have clean-cut, unambiguous, decisive orders, that are not eternally being amended, or explained, or modified, or, as sometimes happens, revoked by a fair crawling back to the first point of departure. Charley says it's because the old women there don't know their own minds, and go off at half-cock. But I never know there were any ladies in the War Department in the first place (and I don't believe there are, for some things would be altered, I'm sure), and besides that sounds rude; so that can't be the reason. Now, dear Mr. Editor, what is it?

This letter had to have so many explanations in it that its length has run away with it, and I can't talk about chocolate creams, as I meant to. But if I may write to you again, I will.

I am, my dear editor, very truly yours,

MARY C.

P. S. This isn't one of my questions. It is one of the things that Charley and his friends pow-wow over; and I have heard general orders discussed and reviled, and ridiculed so much for the blemishes hinted at, that while I was writing, it seemed to be one of my own pet problems. Charley says an intelligent civilian reviewing a file of them would find the popular notion of military terseness, perspicuity, and decision away out of range.

ARMY CHARACTERS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: It is a pleasant sunny morning, and the regimental band is playing while Mr. Adjutant inspects the new guard. The men, off duty, are lazily enjoying their brief period of rest, the officers socially chatting in groups. Let us walk among the latter and make some acquaintances. Now, *circumspice!*

Look at that little man with the important air. He is a species of chronic judge-advocate. He apes the literary style—hair somewhat in disorder, pushed back now and then with a preoccupied movement of the left hand, in imitation of what he supposes a Hugo might do elucidating a deep thought. He seems to like his own words, for he is continually tasting them with a smack of the lips. He talks Darwin, Spencer, Huxley—anything that leads the listener to presume him above the ordinary reading public. He walks around, as you see, in an ill-fitting, shabby, citizen's coat, which for some unaccountable reason is always donned by a judge-advocate. This little fellow, having once been detailed in that capacity, with laudable zeal commenced the study of Benet, De Hart, etc. Making no vital mistakes, he is detailed again and again, and begins to think himself a young Story, with reputation established for legal acumen.

You should see the pompous, heavy-browed, deep-thinking air with which he opens the proceedings in the court room; the pitying smile at some point raised by a member; the quiet confidence with which he turns down a leaf in Benet, and suggests to the snubbed individual a careful perusal of certain paragraphs; how terrific his ire if the court happen to disagree with his action and remind him of his true position and its duties; with what incredulity he receives mention of some decision or authority not encountered in his deep research. This man has become insufferable, and will bore you at breakfast, dinner, supper, and cards with his eternal military-law jargon.

Here comes "Points." An orderly from the Adjutant's office hands him a written order. Instantly the whole exterior of the man bristles with protest. He reads the document carefully once, twice, three times, and the face is illuminated by anticipation of triumph, if a possible reference to regulations can be hurled at the commanding officer's head. He is the *bleu-noir* of headquarters, and with him the whole duty of man is to fight superior officers. He covets popularity among new comers, and is positively subversive of discipline in his desire to gain

the good will of enlisted men, among whom the worst characters are his most enthusiastic admirers.

Standing there, with the quiet air of a connoisseur criticising guard-mount, is "Principles," the great authority in tactics. Disgust is seen in every feature of his face. No one does anything right. There ought to be a perennial school for recitations, and conscious ability suggests who should be teacher. The youngsters dread his joining in conversation because he talks shop. He thinks to enlighten a dull assembly by an attempt to convert it into a sort of dialectic society. Without any apparent connection between his one idea and subjects under discussion, he calls out loud enough to be heard by all, "Mr. Depone, I have a question for you." Depone is suddenly seized with violent symptoms requiring immediate exit.

Yonder is Don Quixote, called Donkey for short, riding his fiery charger Reform, and forever lowering his lance against windmills of abuse. Timid fellows, conscious of last night's "draw" and a present grateful appreciation of ice water, scud away at his approach. Don is terrible in description of what he purposes to do by and by for the reformation of every body. He looks you through and through, and you feel like Hamlet's mother—

"—Speak no more:
Thou turn'st mine eyes into my very soul;
And there I see such black and grained spots
As will not leave their tinct."

You very naturally do not seek out Don to go fishing.

There is General Morals, a fat, healthy, well-to-do man, who puts money in his purse. He almost believes, and would have others think, that the moral principle is predominant in his character, not guessing the truth that selfishness in its very essence is the mainspring of his every thought and act. Selfishness, instead of conscience, whispers that smoking is wrong, being not only expensive, but injuring the health—the delicious enjoyment of that health which makes one so cheerful in contrasting one's own ruddy cheek with the pallor of his who violates its laws. Selfishness suggests that "drinks" must be classed in the same category; but then recollections of the warm, pleasant glow obtained at another's expense, deaden this mock conscience, and the General is usually around when somebody treats. He dreads obesity, as indicating chances of apoplexy. To die prematurely is to lose the chance of laying up more money, to lack promotion, to miss the exquisite pleasure of doing better in this world than one's fellows. People regard him as a good, noble, moral man. He himself thinks it must be so, and before the dread throne would, without finching, claim the high reward. "Woe unto you, Pharisee—hypocrite!"

Look at that dapper fellow. It is a pup of the Pointer breed. West Pointers we call them in the Army. A pretty good breed it is, too—plucky and all that sort of thing. But in the young pup there is a tendency to mathematical interlarding in ordinary conversation, and he enjoys the bewilderment of a cit-appointee until the latter turns at bay and floors him with a Latin bolt. The pup is also apt to imagine, that in four years' strutting about the foot of Crow Nest he has topped the summit of military knowledge. However, the pup soon learns to "charge" at the word, and on the whole we like him.

Any "shirks" present? Yes. Nothing particularly characteristic in personal appearance. Stay among us for a week and you will know them all. Some of them have been in the Army fifteen years, and beyond the routine duties of officer-of-the-day and the simplest movements at drill, they have not an idea of their profession. The utmost development of their capacity is in the how-not-to-do-it. A few have considerable influence at Washington, which crops out in leaves of absence. Others, too lazy to obtain influence, are simply drones, incapable of earning a living in any other walk of life. When not engaged in billiards, cards, or a "billy," they are to be found improving their minds at the post-trader's, through the medium of the *Day's Dings*, *Policies Gazette*, and other choice literature.

That elderly gentleman, in the white cravat, is the Rev. Mr. Berry, the post chaplain, commonly spoken of as Elderberry, Old *Ad Interim* (Old Dad Inter Him), and Pundit, in allusion to his inveterate habit of cramming us with indigestible puns. But he wants all the joking to himself. Get off anything that he cannot see at once, and he will retire in disgust to his quarters to study it out. For instance, a day or two ago some officers asked the old joker to join them in a cock-tail. He gladly assented, and while the liquor was mixing Jones said, "Mr. Berry, I was talking to 'Bones,' the negro joker of our minstrel troupe, this morning, and I asked him if he did not think himself superior to you as a joker, and he said no! that you were better because you wear a white choker, while he is only a black man, you know."

Mr. Berry immediately left the room. Returning in about five minutes, we supposed he had discovered the "nub," but he had merely forgotten his cock-tail. That swallowed, he retired to his quarters, and has ventured to show himself this morning for the first time. He holds to no especial doctrines, and thus his opinions are without weight. Desiring to accommodate all consciences, he fails to do the good he might. He is, moreover, a news-monger, and consequently avoided. With an immense field, he is very useless, and may be classed among the drones.

But it's not fair I should have exclusive access to your ear. Go and talk a little with Jones, then. He will tell you how pleasantly the ladies of the garrison get along together.

AU REVOIR.

ARMY LIFE INSURANCE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In your issue of November 8 there was a communication on the subject of "Army Life Insurance." Like the writer of that article, I do not feel competent to suggest what particular plan would be best, but there are undoubtedly many gentlemen in our Army who are thoroughly able to frame some plan which might obtain the force of legal enactment during the coming session of Congress. This subject has been broached several times during the past few years, and although there

seems to be a very strong feeling in favor of life insurance among our Army officers, yet it has never resulted in anything substantial being done towards securing action.

One of the very easiest plans would be a "Mutual Life Insurance Society of the Officers of the Army," with a constitution and laws, secured by act of Congress, and carried out under the Paymaster-General of the Army, said society to be composed of officers who would give their written and voluntary adhesion to the laws upon which it was based, which should also be made by law writer authority to the Paymaster-General to deduct from the pay of each and every officer who was a member of the society, say five dollars, or ten dollars, the aggregate amount to be paid over by a check from the Paymaster-General to the heirs of a deceased member. This deduction to be made but once, of course, upon the death of an individual member.

Out of over two thousand officers of the Army the society ought to be able to obtain one thousand members, which, at five or ten dollars each, would make quite a respectable sum for the wives or children of a deceased member.

The duty thus thrown upon the Pay Department would not be a bit more arduous than that required of said department at the present time relative to the deposits made by enlisted men, and it will be seen by the record that the annual amount each officer would be called upon to pay would not be the one-half of what he would be required to pay as premium to a citizen life insurance company, with the risk of losing all, as we have lately seen.

LIFE INSURANCE.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, December 1, 1873.

SCHOLASTIC INSTRUCTION IN THE NAVY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Will you please give an insertion in the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL of the subjoined circular letter respecting scholastic instruction in the Navy, which will explain itself. I have recently learned (since writing this circular) that since I was on active duty the Department has introduced schooling in the Navy, and appointed schoolmasters on our ships of war; but it does not accomplish the object I desire to attain.

In the first place the system is instituted by departmental regulation only, and wants the force and certainty of law. It can be abolished or neglected at individual option, and its existence is but little known outside of the service, and hence fails to exercise that influence on enlistments, which a law would exert.

In the second place, the schoolmasters are appointed from a class of men deficient in desirable competency; their salary is small, in fourth rate vessels only equal to that of common seamen, and less than that of any petty officer on board, or even second class firemen, painters, and coxswains, as well as cabin and ward-room cooks; while in larger vessels, where the schoolmasters receive higher pay, it still is less than that of many petty officers appointed from the crew, and naturally they occupy an inferior position, and their usefulness is comparatively diminished. They meet, too, with the sailors, and the familiarity thus engendered is sure to bring their authority into contempt.

An officer of high rank in the Navy, on the active list, in a letter to me, says: "With regard to your proposition, my dear commodore, for the improvement of our seamen, by an improved and organized system of ship-board instruction, my heart is with you, and its prayers are for success in the effort. I am in favor of levelling upwards on the principle that command is dignified by the moral and intellectual advancement of the subordinates. By this alone can they be taught the beauty and necessity of discipline, and learn that obedience in military organization—the yielding of their will to a superior—is not merely arbitrary, but is rendered to him as the executor of the laws of a common country, and obedience will assume the garb of patriotism. Poor Jack, whose brawny hands and stout heart fight for, and who loves the flag under which he serves, while we gather the glory of his toils and sufferings, merits the fostering care of the Government he serves and the superiors—he obeys. Even in the Spanish navy one entire watch, when off duty, is compelled to attend secular instruction daily, Sundays excepted, under the tuition of the chaplain. And in the English navy instead of the old navy tin pots and pans, the sailors are allowed crockery and knives and forks, and a home air is given to the mess-deck, where tables and campstools are provided—where they can write to friends at home, or enjoy their hour of relaxation with books and magazines, and are treated like human beings and Christians, instead of being driven to the upper deck like dogs."

Speaking of my proposal for the appropriation of a slush-fund, he says: "No better disposition could be made, in my humble opinion, of the drippings of Jack's larder, and any deficiency to that end supplied by the considerate hand of a just government, would return a profitable interest."

WM. B. WHITING, Commodore U. S. Navy.

DELAFIELD, WAUKESHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN,
November 26, 1873.

To all who feel an interest in, and desire the welfare of the Navy.

I purpose to propose to Congress the enactment of a law establishing scholastic instruction in the Navy, by the appointment of teachers to whom a sufficient salary shall be given to secure the services of competent men, to instruct the crew in nautical science and the rudimentary branches of a common English education. These teachers to be subject to a careful examination as to fitness, and to mess with the commissioned or warrant officers, as may be deemed advisable; to provide instruments, school books, stationery, etc.; and to make attendance on the instruction of the teachers compulsory on all the crew under the age of, say, 25 years, (or such age as may be deemed advisable) and optional with all beyond that age. The education of officers is provided for at the Naval Academy at Annapolis; and, I believe a provision, by law, for the education of common sailors, would at-

tract to the naval service a class of men and boys superior in intelligence and energy to those now composing the majority of our ship's crews. And the proportion of youthful employees thus enlisted, at a rate of pay considerably less than that given to older seamen, might be increased so as to lessen the additional expense, while the greater efficiency given to the Navy would more than compensate it.

I would also appropriate the slush fund to the purchase of a library for the crew. The slush fund arises from the sale of the grease skimmed by the ship's cook from the ration of the men, while cooking, and in vessels of large size amounts to more than a thousand dollars a year. The fund is placed in the hand of the executive officer, and expended, at his discretion, for the purchase of ornamental brass-work for the ship, mats or carpeting for the boats, holy-stones, sand, etc., for cleaning the decks, oil for cleaning the bright-work, etc., etc. Immemorial custom has devoted it to this purpose, and a hue and cry will probably be raised at any effort to divert it, but immemorial custom cannot convert wrong into right, and I contend that, being derived from the ration, the slush fund belongs to the crew and not to the ship. But the things for which it has heretofore been applied are necessary, and I would therefore provide a substitute, to be placed at the disposal of the executive officer for the wear and tear of the ship, to be expended by him, at his discretion, for the purposes to which the slush fund is now applied; and to secure the care and preservation of the slush fund when thus diverted from its former use, I would make this substitute contingent on the slush fund. No one who has seen the avidity with which common sailors peruse even old newspapers, when they can get hold of them, will doubt that they will highly prize such a provision for their benefit.

I am persuaded that the effect, were reading matter thus provided, combined with systematic instruction, would be an improvement in our ships' crews, and our Navy would no longer be, as it now is, a receptacle for the idle, the depraved, and the vicious.

Should it meet with your favor, and you consider it as important as I think it to be, I respectfully request that you will get up a petition to Congress from your locality, or induce the legislators in your State Legislature, or the members of other associations, such as Common Councils, Boards of Trade, etc., to pass resolutions in its behalf.

I would be very much pleased to receive an expression of your opinion on this subject.

Very respectfully, yours,

WILLIAM B. WHITING,
Commodore U. S. Navy.

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN FRY.

THE following letter and affidavit from Captain Fry, of the *Virginus*, are of interest as well as of value as part of the history of the case:

CAPTAIN FRY TO PRESIDENT GRANT.

U. S. Grant, President of the United States of America.

MR. PRESIDENT: My resignation as lieutenant in the United States Navy, dated January 26, 1861, was accepted by the Navy Department; but no application for the pay due me has ever been replied to. Unable to find employment in my native land, I was forced to accept the first office, and what leads to my death. The money due me, I am inclined to believe, will be paid to my family when it is known that I am dead. Will you see to it? I ask it of you as a brother officer. If the questions of the war had been left to the old officers of the Army and Navy there would have been no war. Cherish both arms of the service, for they are most free from the taint that corrupts the land. My field of usefulness to the country has been abridged by proscription. The carpet-bag policy is ruinous to the land. Let Louisiana govern herself. Her prosperity is that of the whole country. It is treason to do otherwise. Respectfully,

JOSEPH FRY, Confederate States Navy.

P. S.—The Spanish officers are very kind to me, but the United States are weak when a vessel can be captured on the high seas, with perfectly regular papers, and her captain, crew, and passengers shot without appeal to the protection of the United States. J. F.

ANTE-MORTEM DECLARATION OF CAPTAIN FRY.

Declaration taken on this 7th day of November, 1873, after having sworn on the Bible that these are the true and real words of Captain Joseph Fry, aged forty-seven years, born in Florida, in the United States of America, and being condemned to death by martial law in the jail of the city of Santiago de Cuba, in the presence of the American Vice Consul, E. G. Schmitt, after making oath to tell the truth on the Bible, etc., and having made declaration and protest, as he does so solemnly protest before and in the presence of the said vice consul, declares he is master of the American steamer *Virginus*, with all his papers, special register of the steamer, crew list, articles, clearance from Kingston, Jam., as also despatch from the custom house, and sailed on the 23d day of October, with all her crew and passengers to the number of 108, or thereabout. After a few hours at sea sprung a leak and put into a Haytian port for repairs; sailed from the port of Cinnit, of the island of Hayti, on the 30th day of October, 1873, and while between the islands of Cuba and Jamaica, about twenty odd miles from Cuba, were chased by a steamer and captured about eighteen miles north of Marrant Point, east end of the island of Jamaica, about ten o'clock at night, the ship having fired several shots on the steamer *Virginus* and compelled their surrender; the steamer was then taken charge of by a boarding officer, who stated that he did so on his own responsibility, knowing her to be an American vessel and under the protection of the American flag; when the master, Joseph Fry, with crew and passengers, were placed under guard and brought into the port of Santiago de Cuba on the first day of November, in the evening; subsequently, having delivered all the papers of the aforesaid steamer when she was captured, he has been refused, officially, all chances of application or appearance before his consul

for protection until he has been condemned to death, with the greatest part of his crew, under no known public law or pretext, but a local proclamation of which he or they had never heard, and he has this only time to make his appeal. Being hurried in the preparation for death, he wishes this should be stated, it being his true declaration to serve his God. In jail at two o'clock, the 7th of November, 1873.

JOSEPH FRY, Master of the *Virginus*.

Enterado del contenido, El Comandante de la guard
in de la custodia—E. CALRAMLEE.

LETTERS FROM FRY TO HIS WIFE.

CORVETTE TORNADO.

HARBOR OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Nov. 13, 1873.

MY DEAR WIFE: I am a prisoner in the hands of the Spaniards, and here again. As far as I am concerned I am in luck again, as I am among perfect gentlemen, who do all they can to show me hospitality and kindness. I write these lines to appease your anxiety, as the lies told might cause you uneasiness. I am in excellent health for the present. Kiss Annie and my children for me and don't worry about me. Your devoted husband,
JOSEPH FRY.

LAST HOUR.

DEAR DITE: I have finished my career on earth. Have taken communion, done my penance, and enjoyed the sight of seeing Protestant and infidel brought to a state of calm and quiet wonderful for men who one hour hence will, in all probability, be dead. I enjoy this far more than anything that has happened since we parted. I scarcely feel sorry for you and yours, dear, sweet Dite. I will be with you, for I have asked of Him, in communion, and He answers my prayer in letting me die very shortly after. Dear little Lize is here. God's angels are here. Adios to Dite. Ask Charley and Freddy and Aggy to pardon their father's faults. Your faithful husband,
JOSEPH FRY.

THE COAL BARGE ACCIDENT.

An enterprising reporter of the Reading *Eagle* has interviewed "Commodore" Troutman of the coal barge *Upland*, that, on the night of December 5, sunk at the bottom of the entrance to the dock where reposed the Spanish frigate *Arapiles*. The barge belongs to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, and the skipper arrived at Reading on Wednesday morning, December 10. The conversation with him is given thus:

"You are 'Commodore' Troutman, I believe?" "Yes." "Commanded the *Undine*?" "No." "The *Upland*, then?" "Yes." "You are from Pottstown, I believe?" "Yes." "Got home yesterday, did you not?" "Yes." "Were you in command of the *Upland* when she went down?" "No." "Who was?" "Don't know." "Were you in command just before she sunk?" "Yes." "Will you tell me the reason the barge sunk?" "No." "Why not?" "Because I don't know." "When did you leave your boat?" "Before she went down." "When did she go down?" "Saturday morning, before daylight." "What time did you leave the boat?"

[Here the "Commodore" took off his hat, leaned up against the wall, and refused to go any further.]

The *Eagle* gives the following explanation of the accident: The captain of the boat, the *Upland*, might have told the facts, for certainly he knew them; but probably he had been specially instructed not to do so. The coal barge above alluded to took her last load of steamboat coal at Port Richmond, and, by the way of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, reached Hoboken on Thursday. "Commodore" Troutman received instructions from Mr. Moore, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company's agent at New York, to proceed to the Eighth street (Brooklyn) wharf under tow. On Friday, this day one week ago, the *Upland*, with several other barges, left Hoboken under tow and proceeded towards Brooklyn. When in the middle of the stream, a strange tug approached the boats, and a well-dressed man, apparently an officer, hailed the barges and asked for the *Upland*. "Commodore" Troutman replied. The man said, "Are you loaded with steamboat coal?" "Yes," was the reply. "Then I want you," said the man, and the boat was taken charge of by the stranger and towed alongside of a ship at the dock of the Brooklyn Navy-yard. "Commodore" Troutman was then ordered to leave his boat. It was then after four o'clock of the afternoon of Friday, December 5. "Commodore" Troutman said it was his home, and all his goods were in the cabin of the boat and he would not leave. He was imperatively ordered to go, and "Commodore" Troutman, one deck hand and a dog—all on board—left the *Upland*, taking nothing with them, not even their supper, which was cooking on the stove at the time. They left the boat, went out of the Navy-yard and reported the facts of the case to Mr. Moore, the Reading Company's agent. He gave "Commodore" Troutman an order to go to the Navy-yard and get the boat; but it was too late in the evening and the gates of the Navy-yard were closed.

On Saturday morning Troutman went to the Navy-yard, exhibited his order to the commandant, and, after a great deal of talk, he was given in charge of two officers, who were to conduct him to the barge. Upon arriving at the dock the *Upland* was not to be seen. Subsequently it was learned that the craft, with 216 tons of coal and the cabin furniture and effects of the crew, had been sunk as above stated, a few hours before day-break on Saturday morning, December 6. Troutman complained that he had lost his all, and after considerable consideration he was paid \$400 for his losses. The deck hand then also complained and he received \$80 for his effects. Subsequently an offer of \$2,000 was made to Mr. Moore, the agent above alluded to, for the boat and its cargo, provided he would say nothing about it. This offer was declined.

COLONEL F. FRANK MILLER, of Portland, Me., died December 12. He was mayor of New Orleans, and afterward assistant adjutant-general of Virginia and North Carolina under General Butler.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

SEVENTY-NINTH INFANTRY.—This command is becoming lively in one way at least, and courts-martial of officers for neglect of duty, disputes on tactical questions, etc., are now, it seems, all the rage among the Highlanders. Colonel Shaw a few months since was placed under arrest by General Ward for being tardy at inspection, but was soon after released without trial. Colonel Shaw has preferred charges against Captain Geo. Rogers, of Company A, for habitual neglect of duty, this officer having forgotten of late that he had a company, or that the gallant Seventy-ninth was in existence. But last, and by no means least, Captain Dutch, of Company C, has preferred charges against Captain Lindsay, of Company B. The charges are technically, conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, and to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and finally, ignorance of duty. The specifications are several in number, but the main points of the whole seem to have culminated in those of the third charge, and go to show that really a little learning is a dangerous thing. It appears that a recent battalion drill of the regiment, held at the State Arsenal, in the movement close column by division, first division right in front, the battalion being in line, the command of the second division of the battalion devolved upon Captain Dutch by seniority, Captain Lindsay, the accused, being the junior. At the conclusion of the movement the division commander gave the command, *Support arms*, which command the junior refused to have his company execute—contending that the movement was not successive in character—but instead ordered it to remain at a *carry*, and in the brief dispute assured the ranking officer in forcible language that he was wrong in giving such an order, and peremptorily refused to obey it, be the consequences what they may. Ah, when a Scotchman meets a Scotchman, then really comes the tug of war. It will not do for us to decide this important question in dispute, for in that case the court which is to try this officer would be in part relieved of its duties. Captain Lindsay, it would appear, has even more than the tactics yet to learn to properly fit him for an officer, if the charges preferred can be sustained. His resignation had been previously forwarded, but in consequence of these charges has been detained at regimental headquarters.

TWELFTH INFANTRY.—Wing drills of this command, Colonel John Ward, were held at the State Arsenal on the evenings of December 11 and 15, under the respective commands of Lieutenant-Colonel Gildersleeve and Major Cruger. The attendance averaged at both drills ten commands of twelve files, and were formed in single rank to simplify instruction. The movements were of the more simple nature, the greatest portion of the time being given to instruction in the manual, loading and firing, etc. At the drill on the 15th, Maj. Cruger indulged in a little practice at street firing and instruction in musketry, according to Wingate. By the way, the Twelfth is thoroughly alive to rifle practice. A rifle club or association has been formed in the regiment, and the officers and men are now studying Wingate's Manual with the idea of getting all the winning points in advance, so as to lead at the next meeting of the N. R. A. at Creedmoor. A regiment that presented a team last fall, which, with but three weeks' practice, came out second and third in all the team matches it was allowed to enter, will be found hard to excel next year. The Twenty-second and Seventy-ninth will have to look well after their laurels, or the Twelfth will be too much for them.

Captain J. T. Van Rensselaer, late of the Seventh, assumed charge of Company E, Twelfth, familiarly known as the "Webster Guard," on Monday evening, at the battalion drill of the regiment. His soldierly bearing, and the thorough knowledge of his duties displayed as an officer, won the admiration of his company, and every officer of the regiment. Captain Van Rensselaer comes as a stranger to the Twelfth, and gives evidence of ranking among the foremost of its officers. Colonel Sprague, the former commandant of the company, who recently resigned on account of removal from the district, at this drill donned a uniform and paraded in the ranks of the company. We suspect Private Sprague was just as critical as he was wont to be as colonel or captain. We trust, however, the new commandant of the "Webster" did not suffer too severely at the hands of our old friend "Eugarp."

The regiment is ordered to parade at the State Arsenal in chasseur uniform, with leggings, for battalion drill, as follows: Companies A, B, D, I, and K, December 22; Companies C, E, F, G, and H, January 9. Assembly at 8:15 o'clock P. M.

THE CANADIAN MILITIA.—From the annual report on the state of the militia of the Dominion of Canada for the year 1872 we learn that the militia force of our Canadian neighbors consisted last year of 30,144 men actually present with their corps at their muster parades. In addition to these, 339 men, officers, non-commissioned officers, and candidates for commissions, attended the infantry schools for instruction. This army is organized by corps, companies, battalions, and batteries into tactical brigades of the three arms, the brigades being distributed according to territorial divisions, and the whole active force forming a nucleus upon which rests the reserve, which latter we are told represents "practically almost the entire manhood of the Do-

minion." We are not surprised that the report regards with pride this exhibit and organization. They are certainly creditable to Canada, and may well invite the attention of our military men and legislators. Camps of instruction, so necessary to the training or actual work of a militia force, were held of due importance. During the year eighteen camps of exercise for sixteen days training, and three small regimental artillery camps for eight days—the former drawing an attendance of 24,144 and the latter of 171—were successfully conducted. The infantry are all armed with the Snider breech-loader, using the same ammunition as the English regular troops—an important matter; the cavalry, in addition to their sabres, are provided with cavalry Snider carbines of the regulation pattern; and the artillery batteries are being armed with the same description of field guns as those recently issued to the English horse artillery. The consequence is that the regular and militia forces will be able to operate harmoniously together, and as one army. The active militia force is now organized, so far as circumstances will admit, after the manner of an army; the annual training of corps is no longer limited to merely regimental exercises, but the various corps of the different arms trained besides to military combination for mutual support, in tactical brigades; and the whole force performs annually a prescribed course of rifle instruction and target practice. The manner of assembling the militia in case of emergency has received great attention, and the report boasts that a signal flashed by telegraph would at any moment call to arms and concentrate in a few hours the whole or any part of the available force, in tactical brigades of the three arms, at any point within the limits of the brigade divisions. We freely admit the great advantage of this organization, and extend full praise to our neighbors for having perfected it. The increased general efficiency of the force is attributed to the practice of concentrating the various corps in brigade camps of exercise for annual drill, when officers and men are withdrawn from civil avocations and enabled to give entire attention to military duty. No confidence is placed in the system formerly prevailing of allowing corps to perform their annual drill independently at local headquarters at any time of the year and in any manner they pleased. The assembling annually of the territorial brigade divisions, that they may work together under their own proper staff officers, in their respective positions, is held to be of prime importance in preparing a military force for the performance of the duties that actual hostilities would impose. The amount of money asked for to maintain the militia organization in its present system is \$1,500,000. Great and increased attention has been given to rifle instruction and target practice, and high praise is extended to the Dominion Rifle Association for its assistance in that direction.

The report, as a whole, is very full, scientific in arrangement, clear and sensible in its suggestions, and exhibits on the part of its author, the acting Minister of Militia and Defence, an accurate knowledge of the duties entrusted to him, and a high appreciation of their importance. It may well be studied by those interested in our National Guard, for it has much to offer for our instruction. Canada has good reason to be proud of its militia organization.

TWENTY-SECOND INFANTRY.—The fifth concert of the series by Gilmore's regimental band took place on Monday evening, and proved in every way the best thus far given. The building was filled to excess with a fashionable assemblage, and the music of the band showed remarkable results of the past few weeks of practice. The regimental armory looks well with its new flooring, and it was not put down, either, before it was needed. The next concert is advertised for this (Saturday) evening, December 20. There is nothing particularly new in the regiment, except the order for an election for lieutenant-colonel next week, and the proposition of the regiment joining en masse the National Rifle Association.

SEVENTH INFANTRY.—The Board of Officers of this command have published the customary roll of the members most distinguished for long and faithful service. The roll numbers 79 members, Captain Geo. W. Smith leading off with date of enrolment at 1835; Sergeant Braisted follows, having stood faithfully by the colors since 1845. The following table, prepared annually, is very important, and shows the year in which the term of service of the members on muster rolls (October 28, 1873) expires, and the number in each year:

	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	Yrs "Change of service since du- 1872.
First Co....	28	3	1	4	6	15	9	4	198
Second Co..	22	4	5	8	16	18	13	10	402
Third Co....	20	3	1	4	8	7	5	11	191
Fourth Co..	22	3	4	5	6	11	8	8	211
Fifth Co....	24	5	2	5	5	12	6	7	189
Sixth Co....	11	4	6	6	9	10	10	9	284
Seventh Co.	18	7	10	6	20	14	3	13	301
Eighth Co..	18	2	15	11	22	17	9	10	362
Ninth Co..	17	3	4	5	6	10	6	9	193
Tenth Co....	15	5	6	9	16	14	15	19	401
	195	41	54	63	114	137	84	109	2745

* G., gain; L., loss.

The column of 1830 illustrates the success of the several companies in recruiting for the period commencing January 1, 1873, and ending October 28, 1873. The column which gives the number of "years of service" due, to each company by its members shows the actual strength of the several companies. The last column shows the relative and actual loss or gain in the strength of the company since the annual inspection of 1872.

The Committee of the Board of Supervisors to whom was referred the application of the Seventh regiment for a site for an armory made report requesting the board to recommend the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to set apart the block on Sixty-fifth and Sixty-sixth streets, Lexington and Fourth avenues, for the purpose.

The Seventh has finally decided to hold a charity ball at the Academy of Music Jan. 6, the net proceeds to go towards the relief of the poor of the city. Cards of admission will be \$5, admitting a lady and gentleman, and it is estimated that at least 1,500 tickets will be disposed of in the regiment alone.

TWENTY-THIRD INFANTRY.—The eleventh annual reception of this command took place at the new regimental armory, Brooklyn, on the evening of December 16, instead of the Academy of Music as heretofore. From the ordinary promenade concerts of former years, these annual entertainments have gradually merged into regular balls or receptions, the promenading portion of the programme having ceased some years since, and the concerts, as instanced this year, having dwindled down to two or three introductory selections, the remaining time being devoted to dancing. The Twenty-third's concerts, receptions, or balls—term them what you may—always draw forth the elite of Brooklyn, and are among the leading public festivities of the season, and, among the ladies especially, rank as the opening of the fashionable season. The attendance this year was apparently less than in former years, though the change of location made a comparison difficult. The brilliant effects of these receptions held at the Academy was lost to some extent in the Armory, where, too, the rule of full dress was relaxed on the part of the gentlemen, though the number of rich and costly toilets of the ladies, we should judge, was fully up to former seasons. There was plenty of room for the display of toilets, as well as to dance without the risk of injury to draperies. The decorations of the building were simple, the company rooms presented a neat cosy appearance, and while the excellent music of Contorno kept matters lively on the floor, a detachment of Graffula's band in the gallery soothed the promenaders. The affair was well managed, the committees courteous, the regiment hospitable, and the "Eleventh Annual" a success.

FORTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY.—A large company gathered at the armory of this regiment on Wednesday evening to witness a battalion drill and review of this favorite Brooklyn command, and also to indulge in the dance which followed. The regiment paraded in full dress, ten commands of twelve files, and, for so early in the season, gave a very commendable exhibition of its military qualifications. Colonel Austen was in command, and after formation the regiment was exercised for almost an hour in the school of the battalion, only one serious error occurring during the drill, this being on the part of a young officer who momentarily forgot the relative position of his command in a movement by division on the left. Otherwise the regiment gave a very good exhibition, and showed that it had not lost much during the past season. Colonel Austen handles his regiment well, and gives his commands with unusual force and distinctness, and by this means throws great spirit into the men. It is exceedingly difficult to manoeuvre so large a battalion in so small a room, and we doubt whether any other regiment than the Forty-seventh could execute movements so smoothly in so small a space. Colonel Austen knows just what movements he can execute well in this space, and he acts accordingly. These movements are not always of the most simple character, but somehow or other the officers and men have by constant practice got the drill-room "down fine," and generally know what they can do with a certain frontage and so many commands. After the drill General Morris, inspector-general of the State, reviewed the troops, accompanied by Commissary-General Heath, General Meserole, and a portion of the staff of the Eleventh brigade, one of the latter of whom, we were surprised to observe, had the bad taste to wear colored gloves. The fronts of the regiment merely were inspected, and the absence of music of any character whatsoever gave the ceremony a somewhat tame appearance, and indicated one sign of the effect of the panic upon the military. Colonel Austen, however, did not think it necessary to increase the expense by a couple of hundred dollars for an in-door review. As for the dancing, a small orchestra supply all the necessary music, but it would not have looked well, however, for a harp and violin to have preceded the regiment at the review. It would look too much like the review of itinerant Italians we are wont to see daily in our streets. This was what some one termed a "review on the quiet," and very well done it was too, despite absence of music. The usual breaking by fours was adopted, of course, but what else can be done in a room where the column fronts cover half the necessary space. The regiment executed the manual very well, but cannot some one stop those awful thumps at an order? Why, the muskets come down like bricks from the roof, and if the same force is used on the street or pavement, these rifles will soon be unfit for use. The Forty-seventh in marching adopt almost the lock step, and the well closed ranks of the companies gave them a solid appearance, and added much to the good effect of the regiment's marching. The tactics do not call for this closed ranks or lock step marching. Dancing followed the review, but the dust from the floor rendered this pastime anything but enjoyable. Yet some will undergo almost any amount of discomfort for one hour's "trip of the toe."

MASSACHUSETTS.—It is reported the new militia law has proved defective in several particulars, and it is proposed by a number of military gentlemen to cause amendments to be made to it which will remedy these defects.....The uniforms of the troops are to be inspected so as to ascertain the amount necessary to appropriate for this purpose by the State.....The Ninth regiment, of Boston, is kept well before the public, and Colonel Finan is not slow in military matters. The regiment has adopted the French shako with gold trimmings and a green pompon. Colonel Finan reports that in the hurry and bustle previous to muster a number of undesirable men were enlisted, and he would not be surprised if he felt obliged to discharge a hundred men during the coming inspection.....Three members of the Montgomery Light Guard have been elected to the Common Council of Boston.....Judge-Advocate Collins, of the First brigade staff, is in possession of charges against three members of Company C, Ninth regiment, preferred by Captain E. B. Meehan. The nature of the offence alleged to have been committed is insubordination and unbecoming conduct. The men have acknowledged their error and apologized to the company commander, and, therefore, the prospect is that the charges will be withdrawn. The companies are now being inspected, and in some instances prizes are offered for neatness, etc. The men are required to appear as fully uniformed as possible, and those without uniforms will appear in line respectably clad, armed and equipped. In making up the report, among other matters considered, will be the manner of receiving the inspecting officer, the accuracy and promptness of forming line, the attention of the men to the commands of non-commissioned officers, the proficiency of non-commissioned officers, their exercise of authority over men, deportment toward superiors, and other duties; the records of the company, the care of property, and its arrangement in the armory.

CALIFORNIA.—We have received the report of Adjt.-Gen. L. H. Foote, of the State of California, for the years 1872 and 1873. The report shows that during these years a deficiency has existed in the military fund. "This," the Adjutant-General says, "should be provided by the Legislature, as thereby injustice is done to the companies, they being often forced to wait for their monthly allowance, or to dispose of their warrants at a discount. The question of arms," he also states, "is of paramount interest to the citizen soldier. Many of the Atlantic States have provided breech-loading guns for their militia; the General Government has adopted them for the Regular Army. The efficiency of this arm is such as almost to revolutionize the systems of warfare. With it, the soldier feels confident; without it, powerless. The fact that such a weapon is placed in his hands inspires him with interest and zeal in the performance of his duties, and if he is of any service—either for defence, or as an aid to the executive power—he should be rendered as efficient as possible. There are in the hands of the several companies, and in the State armory, 8,725 muzzle-loading guns of different patterns. If these could be sold, and a small additional appropriation made, the National Guard might be equipped with breech-loading guns. I respectfully commend this subject to the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief and the Legislature."

In this connection, the Adjutant-General calls attention to the energy displayed by the First regiment, Second brigade, in arming themselves, at their own expense, with breech-loading rifles.

In conclusion he says: "Section 1,923 of the Political Code adopts the regulation uniform of the U. S. Army for the National Guard of California. On the 13th of January, 1873, General Orders No. 1, describing regulations for uniform and dress, was promulgated. The last Legislature increased the monthly and yearly allowance to the companies, with the tacit understanding that as much as possible of these sums should be expended for uniforms. I am pleased to report that this has been very generally complied with. The First regiment, Second brigade, has procured regulation uniforms; the Second and Third regiments, Second brigade, have already made arrangements to do so. Many of the companies of the Fourth brigade, as also many of the unattached companies, have purchased new uniforms. The general staff, regimental, and most of the company officers—in the matter of uniforms—have complied with section 1,923 of the Political Code. This material improvement has been accomplished at great cost, and indicates the pride and interest taken by each member of the National Guard in its efficiency and advancement. Section 1,958 of the Political Code permits each company to adopt a distinct name, like the multifarious uniforms heretofore in use. This is objectionable. In the National Guard of older States names for companies have become obsolete, as experience proved them serious barriers to a complete unification of constituent parts of the battalion, and detrimental to the cultivation of regimental esprit de corps. I would recommend that the law be so amended that all attached companies be designated by letters only.

"From the 1st of December, 1872, until the last of May, 1873, a period of six months, the northern portion of Siskiyou county was the scene of Indian hostilities. Lives and property were destroyed, and fears were entertained that a general uprising of the Indians would result. On the 12th of December, 1872, fifty Springfield rifles and ammunition were forwarded to Yreka, for the purpose of arming citizens in Siskiyou county. On the 10th of January, 1873, sixty Springfield rifles and ammunition were sent to citizens at Dorris's Bridge, Siskiyou county. On the 1st of May, 1873, an independent company of infantry, formed at Crescent City, Del Norte county, were supplied with fifty Springfield rifles and ammunition. On the 15th of May, 1873, eighty sabres and eighty Colt's pistols were sent to an independent company of mounted riflemen at Smith's River, Del Norte county. On the 17th of May, 1873, seventy-five Springfield rifles and ammunition were forwarded to citizens of Scott River, Siskiyou county. And on the 20th of May, 1873, the exigencies of the case seeming to warrant such action, your Excellency authorized the formation of an independent company of scouts for active service. By arrangement with Major-General Schofield, U. S. Army, commanding Division of the Pacific, such company was to receive rations, and be subject to his orders. Arms and ammunition for the same were at once sent forward, but the capture of the hostile band of Indians by the U. S. troops taking place shortly

thereafter, the organization of the company was not completed.

"The military instruction imparted to students at the State University, and the encouragement given by law to the military academies, manifests a prudent foresight. The National Guard of the U. S. economically and otherwise, is more desirable than the standing armies maintained by European countries. It has proven in the past to be a school of training for active service; it exercises a salutary influence for the preservation of order, and experience has shown that it should be fostered and maintained by judicious legislation."

CONNECTICUT.—For the purpose of battalion drill and exercise, the Fourth Infantry, Colonel Hoyt, is ordered to be divided into battalions with the designations and under the officers hereinafter named. Companies C, D, and F will be known as the First Battalion, and will be under command of Colonel Hoyt. Companies B, E, and K, the Second Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Fairchild. Companies A and G, the Third Battalion, under the command of Major George L. Croft, and Companies H and I, the Fourth Battalion, under the command of Captain A. B. Shumway. The commanders of battalions will assume command of the companies as above designated; and at such times as in their judgment and discretion shall seem advisable, will cause them to assemble for battalion drill and exercise at some place within the limits of the companies under their respective commands. Commandants of battalions and of companies will require all members of their respective commands to observe the strictest accuracy in all the details of drill and discipline.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

—SECOND Lieutenant Allen S. McDonald, of Company A, Seventy-ninth, has resigned.

—AN election for lieutenant-colonel of the Twenty-second regiment will take place on the evening of December 22. The candidates are all in the regiment.

—A REPORT of the Committee on Armories of the Board of Supervisors in favor of transferring the Ninety-sixth regiment to the Centre Market armory was recommended.

—CAPTAIN Francis H. Kaiser, the late commander of Troop A, Fifth brigade, Second division (Brooklyn), recently deceased, left among other legacies the sum of \$500 to his troop.

—Work has commenced on the 13th's new armory, the contract for its erection has been granted to several parties, the total cost to reach nearly \$75,000, leaving a margin of several thousand dollars for contingencies.

—COMPANY C, 23d, Captain West, on Monday evening was presented with a handsome silver service, by its lady friends. The event was made interesting by vocal and instrumental music by members of the company.

—THE annual ball of Company E, Seventy-ninth, Captain Ross, will be held at the regimental armory on the evening of December 24. The Highlanders will be in full costume, and all the winning teams of Creedmoor have been invited to join in this happy gathering of Company E.

—THERE are no new developments in the Second division mutinous Company G affair. The Twenty-third and the Thirtieth have not yet come to blows, the discussion on all sides are particularly hot sometimes. The officer chosen to command the new company has not yet been commissioned, but it is claimed for certain reasons General Headquarters cannot refuse to re-commission him. We wait events.

—THE Committee on Armories and Drill Rooms of the Board of Supervisors have determined to appoint an expert to examine the mason work done in the completion of the Centre Market armory, to ascertain if the bill of Jacob Weber for the amount of \$21,000 is correct. The examiners in the Finance Department report \$9,000 a sufficient sum. Mr. Weber is also to appoint an expert, and if the two disagree a referee is to be appointed.

—UPON a special request of Bishop Potter, of the Episcopal diocese of New York, the Adjutant-General of the State has "stretched a point," by discharging Private G. A. Carstensen, of Company D, Twenty-second, he having recently decided to fight for the church. Private James J. Maginly, of Company H, Twelfth Infantry, is also studying for clerical orders. It would seem that not quite all of our National Guardsmen have been led astray by the so-called frivolities of a National Guard life.

—AT the annual meeting of Company D, Thirteenth Infantry, held December 1, the following civil officers were elected for the ensuing year: Captain T. M. Hempstead, president; Lieutenant G. W. Kempton, vice-president; Hermon Morris, financial secretary; Wm. Pitts, corresponding secretary. The company by unanimous vote likewise adopted the title of "Brooklyn City Guard," being desirous of retaining this title in the regiment, since the disbandment of Company G, which company heretofore claimed that designation.

—THE "Imperial Guard" is the latest effort at fuss and feather, reported as being organized in this city as an independent command. It is proposed to make this company one of the finest of the kind in this country. The uniforms are to be of the most brilliant description, and military men of the highest order are to be invited to command it, and only gentlemen of respectability will be permitted to become members, etc., etc. We had hoped these vain attempts at military had died with the war, in New York city at least. But one would infer from this that we were again returning to those so-called "good old times" when men were wont to be valiant soldiers in peace and peaceful citizens in war. Let the "Imperial Guard" organize, and when organized, join with its first class material a first class National Guard command. Neither the State nor the city of New York requires any independent military companies. They are detrimental to the service.

CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

The following named officers have been commissioned in the Commander-in-Chief in the National Guard, State of New York, during the month of November, 1873:

Third Division—Colonel Frank T. Marlin, judge-advocate.

Third Cavalry—Claus Hoops, captain.
Separate Troop Cavalry, Twenty-fifth Brigade—Frederick Miller, captain; David A. Brown, first lieutenant; Julius Ambruster, second lieutenant; George M. Connolly, second lieutenant.

Battalion of Artillery, Twenty-fifth Brigade—First Lieutenant Edwin J. Kelly, adjutant; First Lieutenant Charles E. Cunningham, quartermaster; Henry S. Redman, second lieutenant.

First Battalion—First Lieutenant Isaac Scott, quartermaster.

Fifth Infantry—Philip Aschenbach, captain; John P. Landseal, first lieutenant.

Seventh Infantry—Frederick A. Goodwin, first lieutenant; Henry B. Turner, second lieutenant.

Eighth Infantry—Frank McAlliffe, captain; William Halligan, first lieutenant; Leander W. Powers, second lieutenant.

Ninth Infantry—John A. Millard, second lieutenant; James A. Mulligan, first lieutenant; J. Peter Hertler, second lieutenant.

Tenth Infantry—Wm. P. Hourigan, captain; James T. Flood, first lieutenant; Timothy O'Sullivan, second lieutenant; Michael J. Dalton, first lieutenant; George D. Weidman, captain.

Fourteenth Infantry—Alonzo W. Camp, first lieutenant.

Fifteenth Battalion—Charles Blaisie, second lieutenant.

Twenty-second Infantry—John Horsfall, captain.

Twenty-fifth Infantry—Francis Sullivan, second lieutenant.

Twenty-sixth Battalion—First Lieutenant James K. Goslin, adjutant.

Twenty-seventh Infantry—John T. Underhill, colonel; Henry Huss, Jr., lieutenant-colonel; James H. Jenkins, major.

Forty-seventh Infantry—First Lieutenant David P. Watkins, quartermaster.

Fiftieth Infantry—Major Mahlon M. Brown, surgeon; Simeon Rolf, first lieutenant; John W. Lanning, second lieutenant.

Fifty-first Infantry—Daniel Gore, captain; Peter McSweeney, first lieutenant; Peter Weber, second lieutenant.

Fifty-fourth Infantry—Peter Weirich, first lieutenant; George Mohr, second lieutenant; Captain Christian C. Meyer, commissary of subsistence; First Lieutenant Charles M. Hovey, adjutant.

Fifty-fifth Infantry—Henry C. Bekrand, first lieutenant.

Seventy-first Infantry—Robert A. McLaren, second lieutenant; Oliver C. Hoffman, second lieutenant; Robert A. McLaren, first lieutenant.

Seventy-ninth Infantry—George Macintosh, first lieutenant; Oder Quinn, second lieutenant; James B. Gillie, second lieutenant.

Ninety-sixth Infantry—Edward Hennig, first lieutenant; Edward Schramok, second lieutenant; Adolph W. Meyrich, second lieutenant.

One Hundred and Third Infantry—Morrell Seranton, captain; Trest Miner, first lieutenant.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SOLDIER.—The Secretary of the Navy has given the U. S. marines the benefit of the President's proclamation pardoning deserters, as you will see by the statement published elsewhere.

N. G., of Pennsylvania.—The proper salute for a Governor of a State within his own State is fifteen guns. The President of the United States alone is entitled to twenty-one guns.

FEET.—In G. O. No. 18, Headquarters Army, A. G. O., February 9, 1870, it is stated that "kindling wood may be issued in proportion equal to 1-6 of the whole authorized allowance according to scale of equivalents established by G. O. No. 13 of 1869." As the cord of standard oak wood is there fixed as being equal to 1-5 cord yellow pine and 1-3 cord white pine, we should say that it did follow that 1-6 of the whole authorized allowance is 1-6 of 1-5 cords yellow pine or 1-6 of 1-3 cords white pine for each cord of standard oak wood allowed.

D. G.—According to the Navy Register for July, 1869, the *Neckam's* name was changed to *Arizona*. The January, 1870, Register reports the name changed from *Neckam* to *Neveda*. She was built and launched at Philadelphia in 1865, and sold at public auction at the Brooklyn Navy-yard November 12, 1873. Tonnage, 2,019. The *Connecticut*, formerly the *Pompanoosuc*, has never been launched, and still remains on the stocks at the Charlestown Navy-yard. Tonnage, 2,869. We do not know the dimensions of the *Franklin*.

NINETEENTH INFANTRY.—So far as we can discover there is no such firm as J. Wright & Co. at No. 609 Broadway, and the *Geneve* Watch Company exists is one long since exposed. Any man who is simple enough to suppose he can buy a good watch for four dollars, or to entrust his money to an utterly unknown advertiser, whose statements prove him to be without conscience, might as well waste it in that way as in any other tom-foolery. He is incapable of taking care of himself, and should have a "garden," as the old woman said.

The Washington *Capitol* thus announces a new work by Mrs. Dahlgren: "Mrs. Dahlgren, who is not only one of our brightest social ornaments, but a lady, as our readers know, of rare literary attainments, has been solicited by members of the Cabinet, of the diplomatic corps, and other leaders of social life, to prepare a little work on Washington etiquette. This amiable lady has graciously consented, and we learn that the book is now ready for press, in the hands of Richard B. Mohun, our most enterprising publisher and bookseller.

"No one could have been more admirably selected for this task. Her wide experience, rich social qualities, exquisite tact and information, will make the work not only one of reference, but of decisive conclusions of the many vexed questions that for half a century and more have been troubling the souls of society leaders in Washington. Our national capital has come to be a great social centre and very peculiar in its more important features. In the first place, its larger foundation is official. In the second, there is a continual change going on, from the peculiarities of our political life. In other social centres old custom, in the hands of old families, wear society into grooves that hold it steady. In looking over the entire field Mrs. Dahlgren has taken the Constitution as her guide and fixes the law of precedent from her understanding of the offices under that instrument. Thus she settles the heretofore unsettled position of the Supreme Court, socially considered; that of the senators, the diplomatic corps, and the Cabinet. We look forward to the appearance of the book with expectations of a rare treat."

FOREIGN ITEMS.

In the Bavarian army 1,046 men, of whom 46 are married, are still missing from the late campaign in France.

FRÉDÉRIC von Mantouff, General of Cavalry and Adjutant General of the King of Prussia, has been relieved from his present commission and made a General Field Marshal.

At General von Mantouff's suggestion, the German government has decided to establish at Mayence a large manufactory of preserved meat and vegetables for the use of the army.

THE colors of the native army in India are to be assimilated to those of the British army, and the devices, etc., of all colors of native regiments are to be registered at the College of Arms.

KING ALBERT of Saxony will retain, after his accession to the throne, the rank and office of Field Marshal in the German Army and Commanding General of the First German Army Division.

THE Dutch government has received intelligence that 9,000 troops belonging to the expedition which lately left Batavia for Aceh have effected a landing on the coast of that country without opposition.

THE ex-Empress Eugénie was deeply affected at the verdict and sentence in the case of Marshal Bazaine. Her agitation was so great that she was compelled to postpone the visit she was about to make to Queen Victoria.

THE Emperor William has appointed Prince George of Saxony Commanding General of the Twelfth (Saxon) Corps d'Armée in the German Army. The Prince provisionally commanded the same corps some time during the late war.

It is proposed that the British Government should telegraph to Bombay to order as many elephants as can be transported, to be sent at once, via the Suez Canal, to Cape Coast Castle, for the service of the expedition against the Ashantees. They could be there in five weeks from the despatch of the order.

THE Russian war department is taking active measures to instruct the officers of the Russian Army in the German language. The directors of the Nikolajew Academy of the General Staff have received orders to accept no candidates and to allow no students to graduate before they have become masters of the German language.

THE Russian navy department propose to establish schools for the instruction of boys to become seamen in the Russian navy. They will begin with the *Wojsk*, now lying at anchor at Sebastopol. The order of exercises will consist in reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, and practical sea-faring. The boys must pledge themselves to serve sixteen years.

A SPECIAL despatch from Berlin to the *London Hour* says the commander of one of the German vessels seized by a Spanish man-of-war in the Sooloo Archipelago and carried to Manila writes home that himself and crew were sent to prison and kept there two months, during which time they received very harsh treatment at the hands of the Spanish officials. The *Hour's* despatch says:—"Public feeling in Germany is much excited over the seizure of the vessels, and the fullest satisfaction for the insult to the German flag is demanded."

THE Russian naval estimates for the current year, 1873, amounted to: Ordinary expenses, 93,262,144 francs; extraordinary expenses, 5,387,960 francs; total, 98,650,104 francs (£4,110,431), being 15,573,032 francs (£640,543) in excess of those of the preceding year, 1872. The additional expenditure is explained by the increased activity in the Black Sea ports. The estimates for 1854 amounted to 50,218,063 francs. In 1864 they rose to 88,007,188 francs; and from that time decreased annually until 1872, when they amounted to 83,177,073 francs.

THE Prussian Lieutenant, Stumm, who accompanied the Russian expedition to Khiva, had the misfortune, while traversing the Steppes, to lose his Iron Cross, acquired by meritorious service in the French War, and which, according to Prussian custom, he wore continually on his breast. Great efforts were made to recover the cherished decoration, but in vain. At length the search was abandoned as hopeless. A few days ago a parcel reached the lieutenant, officially directed to him by the Russian Government. To his surprise and joy it contained the valued cross, which the Russian authorities had spared no pains in seeking, and which had fortunately been found.

THE *Superb*, armor-plated ship, now building at Chatham Dockyard, which is to carry twelve guns, will have a burden of no less than 9,400 tons, and her engines will be of 9,000 horse power. In consequence of her great size it was necessary to build this vessel in a slip instead of in a dock. The iron plates of her inner skin are to be covered with a thickness of wood, to which will be attached the great armor-plates, of which the heavier ones will be affixed after the ship has been launched. The construction of the *Euryalus*, 14, iron-screw corvette, cased with wood, 3,906 tons, 5,250 horse power, has also been commenced at Chatham Dockyard. This ship will be built from plans similar to those of the *Raleigh*, now completing for sea at the same dockyard.

AMONG the works now being carried out by Germany for strengthening the western frontier is the establishment of a flotilla of iron-clad gunboats on the Rhine. The nucleus of this flotilla consists of four French gunboats which were captured in the second battle of Orléans, and were stationed at Mayence last year. Two others, which are now being built by the Weser Ship-building Company, are to be ready next spring. The strength of the flotilla is to be gradually raised to twelve boats, and they will draw only five feet of water, so as to be used on the Moselle as far as Thionville and other affluents of the Rhine. They cannot at present go on the Rhine any further than Rastatt, but it is proposed to deepen the bed of the river so as to make it navigable for those gunboats as far as Strasburg, or even Breisach.

They will be covered with iron plates one inch thick, and armed with two short 15-centimetre guns. Similar gunboats have lately been established by Austria and Turkey on the Danube, and others are being constructed by the Dutch, Russian, and Italian Governments.

ACCORDING to a report from the French secretary of finance, the expenditures caused by the war amounted, for the years 1870, 1871, 1872, and 1873, to 8,739 million francs. The expenditure for carrying on the war amounted to 1,173 million francs in 1870, to 700 millions in 1871, and to 38 millions in 1872. The provisioning of Paris cost over 169 millions. The interest alone on the sum owing to Germany amounted to 302 millions, the quartering of the German troops cost 248 millions, and the liquidation of the contributions raised by the Germans amounted to 62 million francs. The heaviest item is, of course, the five milliards war debt.

SEVEN million four hundred and sixty thousand pounds is the total amount authorized by the British Parliament to be raised for expenses of fortifications between March 1, 1861, and March 31, 1873. Of this sum £3,525,000 had been raised up to March 31 last, leaving £395,000 still available. The sums expended between the dates above mentioned are given as follows: Portsmouth, £2,504,584 0s. 5d.; Plymouth, £1,489,431 10s. 11d.; Portland, £362,387 19s. 2d.; Pembroke, £305,098 9s. 4d.; Sheerness, £338,297 5s. 7d.; Dover, £295,525 14s. 10d.; Gravesend, £276,156 1s. 4d.; Chatham, £275,399 13s. 5d.; Cork, £150,022 9s. 6d.; providing and fixing iron shields, £324,874 2s. 5d.; incidental expenses, works, £145,728 7s. 2d.; incidental expenses, legal, etc., £26,024 10s. 11d.; experiments, £14,394 4s. 6d.; surveys, etc., £33,524 4s. 6d.

THE exportation of horses from France, from January 1 to July 31, 1873, amounted to 14,923 head, which were distributed as follows: to England, 7,531; to Belgium, 2,003; to Germany, 2,494; to Italy, 391; to Switzerland, 1,421; to other countries, 783. The value of these exportations amounted to 12,667,000 francs. The amount for the exportations during the same period for the year 1867 amounted to two and a half million francs. The fact that the exportation of horses is becoming so extensive, especially after the heavy losses during the late war, and the increased demand by the army, gives the French war department no little uneasiness, for, according to the public voice, the war department will only be able to meet the demands of the army when it increases the present price for remounts from 700 to 1,000 francs inclusive.

THE German empire can now put twelve complete cavalry divisions into the field in place of the six employed during the late war, and independent of the regiments attached to the divisions of infantry. Including Bavaria, there are eighteen army corps in the empire, of which seventeen, that of Alsace-Lorraine is presumably the exception, have every component element perfectly complete. Each corps has, of course, its divisions, and the most striking change in the method of organization as compared with that in use in 1870 is the far greater independence given to each division, this body being no longer regarded as only a fighting but a marching unit, with its equipment and other special services complete. There is still, however, a special reserve of artillery and engineers belonging to the corps headquarters. The number of combatants in the field army is given in a hand-book recently published at Leipzig as 578,000 bayonets, 68,000 sabres, 2,080 guns, and 13,000 engineers; but the ration list of the army, including train and non-combatants, amount to 847,000 men with 230,000 horses. These figures are, of course, entirely independent of all the troops of the reserve.

Broad Arrow translates an article which has appeared in the Russian military periodical, *L'Oronjeik Sbornik*, or "Review of Long-range Firearms," under the title, "Actual State of the Manufacture of Firearms in England, Belgium, Prussia, and Austria." It is from the pen of an officer of high rank, who has been superintending some searching experiments with regard to the question of long-range small-arms, as the result of which he has come to the conclusion that all the different patterns, firing metal cartridges adopted by the various powers, are equally good, if the cartridges are good, and equally bad when the cartridges are bad. "We are perfectly convinced," he says, "that it is possible by splitting the cartridge up and inserting it in a particular manner to make every one of the different patterns adopted in the service unserviceable. We have not the slightest doubt in this respect. We believe that to obviate this inconvenience attention must be paid more to the manufacture of the cartridge than to the construction of the rifle." "It is quite useless to endeavor to obtain a method of closing the breech which cannot be rendered unserviceable with cartridges which are liable to split, that for the moment attention should be exclusively directed to the soundness of the cartridge, that this problem once solved, the best breech closing system will be the one that is cheapest, and can be easiest taken to pieces and put together again. To worry oneself with a view to obtain a system which permits one shot more or less to be fired a minute, is simply to pursue an object of quite secondary importance."

THE *Militär Wochenblatt* contains a table of the formation of the 18th corps in the French army, from which we take the following particulars: The 1st corps is stationed at Lille, and commanded by General Clinchant; the 2d corps, under General Montaudon, has its headquarters at Amiens; the 3d corps, under General Lebrun, is at Rouen; the 4th corps, under General Deligny, is at Chartres; the 5th corps, commanded by General Bataille, is stationed at Fontainebleau; the 6th corps, under General Douay, is at Châlons sur Marne; the 7th corps, commanded by General the Duc d'Aumale, is stationed at Besançon; the 8th corps, at Dijon, under General Durcot; the 9th corps is at Tours, under General de Cissey; the 10th corps, under General Forgetot, is at Rennes; the 11th corps, under General Lallemand, is at Nantes; the 12th corps, commanded by General de Lartigue, is stationed at Limoges; the 13th corps, Gen. Piorat, is stationed at Clermont-Ferrand; the 14th corps, under General Bourbaki, is at Grenoble; the 15th

corps, under General Espivent, is at Marseilles; the 16th corps, under General Aymard, is at Montpellier; the 17th corps, commander General de Salignac, is at Toulouse; General A. de Paladines commands the 18th corps, and is stationed at Bordeaux. These corps consist of 144 infantry regiments of the line, 30 battalions of forestiers, 20 regiments of cavalry, and 39 regiments of artillery. Of the newly appointed Generals of the French army, nine (Clinchant, Montaudon, Bataille, Cissey, Deligny, Picard, Bourbaki, Aymard, Forgetot) belonged to the army at Metz; five (Fenelon, Lebrun, Douay, Durcot, and Lartigue) to the army at Sedan; five others took part in the national defence (Clinchant, Lallemand, Bourbaki, Espivent, and d'Aurelle), only two, Clinchant and Bourbaki, belonged first to the Rhine army and then to the national defence. The only General who had no command in the last war was the Duc d'Aumale. Of these commanding generals, four (Lebrun, Cissey, Lallemand, and Espivent) came from the general staff, one (Forgetot) from the artillery, one (Fenelon) from the cavalry, and the rest from the infantry, excepting the Duc d'Aumale, who, since his 21st year general, has never belonged to any branch of the service. The chiefs de corps of the empire, Canrobert, Lebœuf, Faily, Frossard, Desvaux, as well as the Generals Soleille, Caffinieres, Jarras, Castagny, etc., have received no commands.

CONNECTED with the new citadel at Strasburg is a pigeon-house, with accommodations of the most approved description for 500 carrier-pigeons, to be ready in event of war. Are we in England, asks *Broad Arrow*, to rest so well satisfied with the omnipotence and omnipresence of telegraph wires as to neglect entirely the homing-pigeon? In Germany, the War Department is wise enough to organize a pigeon-loft in its important garrisons, but in England it is evidently to be left to private enterprise to encourage pigeon-flying in Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Chatham. Some time since we endeavored to provide the means of distribution of homing-pigeons to the several garrisons, but our offer did not meet with adequate response; we therefore return to the subject, and shall be happy to offer prizes for pigeon-flying in our great military garrisons, provided a committee of officers interested in the subject will aid us with their assistance or suggestions.

At a stated meeting of the Commandery of the State of New York, M. O., L. L., U. S., held at the Army and Navy Club-house, No. 21 West Twenty-seventh street, on Wednesday evening, December 3, 1873, at 8 o'clock, the following were elected companions of the Order of the First Class: Captain Henry C. Ellis, Colonel Andrew Derrom, Major-General Julius Stahl.

At a stated meeting of the Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania, M. O., L. L., U. S., held November 5, the following officers elect were duly invested:

Commander—Brevet Major-General George Cadwalader, U. S. Army.
Senior Vice-Commander—Rear-Admiral Henry K. Hoff, U. S. Navy.
Junior Vice-Commander—Brevet Major-General Thomas Kilby Smith, U. S. V.
Recorder—Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Sam. B. Wylie Mitchell, M. D., U. S. V.
Registrar—Brevet Brigadier-General Charles G. Sawtelle, U. S. Army.
Treasurer—Pay Inspector Alexander W. Russell, U. S. Navy.
Chancellor—Lieutenant-Colonel Henry P. Muirhead (N. G. P.).
Chaplain—Captain John Jay Pomeroy, U. S. V.
Council—Rear-Admiral George F. Emmons, U. S. Navy; Captain William A. T. Maddox, assistant quartermaster, U. S. M. C.; Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Brigadier-General Charles F. Ruff, U. S. Army; Mr. Samuel Bradford Fales; Captain Richard Stockton Howell, U. S. V.

The following were elected companions of the Order of the First Class: Brevet Brigadier-General Charles P. Herring, U. S. V.; Colonel Thomas J. Town, Colonel Frederick E. Embick, Major Elisha Atherton Hancock. Applications to this Commandery for membership will hereafter be acted upon only at the stated meetings held in the months of May and November of each year.

ORDERS have been received at the Springfield armory to increase the production to 200 Springfield guns a day.

THE best "Elastic Truss" in the world is now sold by Pomeroy & Co., 744 Broadway, N. Y., for Three Dollars. Write to them for full particulars.

BIRTH.

ROBINSON.—At Fort D. A. Russell, W. T., on the 28th of November, to the wife of Lieutenant W. W. Robinson, Jr., Third Cavalry, a daughter—ELLA NOBA.

MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages FIFTY CENTS each, and the signature and address of the party sending should accompany the notice.]

GALLOWAY—SMITH.—On Monday, December 1, at the chapel of the U. S. Naval Academy, by the Rev. J. R. Mathews, Chaplain U. S. Navy, C. DOUGLAS GALLOWAY, U. S. Navy, to ANNA LOUISA, daughter of Major R. S. Smith. (No cards.)

PECK—CART.—On Saturday, December 6, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. P. G. Robert, Lieutenant R. BYRON PECK, to FLORENCE W. E. CART, of St. Louis. (No cards.)

BURNETT—WENDELL.—In New York city, December 15, by the Rev. Dr. A. B. Carter, at the residence of Aaron J. Vanderpool, Esq., ROBERT L. BURNETT, late Captain Twenty-first U. S. Infantry, Brevet Major U. S. Army, to Mrs. WENDELL.

DIED.

Brief announcements will be inserted under this head without charge. Obituary notices and resolutions should be paid for at the rate of two cents a word, unless it is intended to leave the question of their insertion to the discretion of the editor.

LANGDON.—At Carondelet, Mo., on the 14th of November, after a long and painful illness, Mr. GEORGE W. LANGDON, the father of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Langdon, U. S. A., and Major C. A. B. Langdon, late of the Iowa Volunteers. New Hampshire and Vermont papers please copy.